













## Sri Lanka's Kumaratunga sworn in as new president

COLOMBO (R) — Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was sworn in as Sri Lanka's first woman president Saturday and pledged to work for an end to the bloody 11-year civil war against Tamil separatist rebels.

Mrs. Kumaratunga said in a speech to the nation that her emphatic election victory earlier this week was a vote for peace.

"This must be, however, peace with honour for both parties to the conflict for it to be strong and durable. My government and I will continue our quest for peace," she said.

With a sweeping mandate from the polls, Mrs. Kumaratunga is expected to resume peace talks with Tamil separatist rebels suspended last month when the main opposition candidate was killed in a bomb blast during a campaign rally.

But she declined to say when she would resume the talks. "We can't tell you a time frame," she told a news conference.

Mrs. Kumaratunga also announced she would unveil a new policy package for foreign investors.

After the long, violent election campaign, Satur-

day's colourful investiture ceremony took place behind a tight security screen.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, dressed in a bright blue silk sari and flanked by her armed services chiefs, took the oath of office before Chief Justice G.P.S. De Silva and invited guests at the presidential secretariat.

"I have no words to express appropriately how deeply touched and overwhelmed I am and how humbled by the expression of the immense confidence and faith the nation has shown in me and my government," she said.

"I am not frightened but very aware of the very heavy responsibility placed upon us by this mandate, which means we will not be given many chances for excuses for achieving what the people expect us to," she later told reporters.

Police lined the road to the secretariat in central Colombo, where hundreds stood in pouring rain beneath blue flags, banners and pictures of Kumaratunga.

Gunboats patrolled offshore near the British-built brown stone building, once the parliament of Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was

then known.

It was here in 1948 that Mrs. Kumaratunga's father, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, spoke as leader of the house after the island won its independence. Twelve years later as prime minister he was assassinated.

His widow Sirima Bandaranaike, who replaced him to become the world's first woman prime minister, was present Saturday to see her daughter installed as the nation's fourth president and the first woman to hold the post.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who became prime minister after national polls in August, chose her mother to replace her as premier, giving the 78-year-old politician a third term in that post.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, a 49-year-old mother of two, won Wednesday's presidential polls by two million votes, receiving 4.7 million votes or 62.28 per cent, on a campaign pledge to bring peace to the war-ravaged country.

When she became prime minister, ending 17 years of United National Party (UNP) rule, she initiated talks with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who have been fighting for a

homeland for the 3.2 million minority Tamils in the country's north and east.

A second round of talks was postponed after opposition presidential candidate Gamage Dissanayake and 53 others were killed in an explosion triggered by a suicide bomber on Oct. 24 at a campaign rally.

Police said the Tamil rebels were suspects, although the rebels denied responsibility for the blast.

She said her mandate had a message for everybody. "It is a message against political violence, against war. Whether it be the LTTE or anybody, I think it would be in their interest to give heed to that message."

Mrs. Kumaratunga has pledged to abolish the current executive presidency, saying the system vests too much power in one individual.

The constitutional change, promised by July 1995, would enable Mrs. Kumaratunga eventually to swap roles with her mother, who has indicated she would like the ceremonial position of president.

Sri Lanka's ethnic war continued unabated Friday, a day after Mrs. Kumaratunga won the presidential election.



Newly elected President Chandrika Kumaratunga (centre) is sworn in before Chief Justice G.P.S. De Silva (left) at the presidential secretariat in the Sri Lankan capital (AFP)

## Swedish EU supporters nudge ahead

STOCKHOLM (R) — With 24 hours to go before Swedes are due to vote whether or not to take their country into the European Union, politicians and media went all out to push a million uncertain voters towards the polling booths.

"Goodnight Europe or good morning the world?" asked the daily Expressen — proud publisher of what it called "the final opinion poll" Saturday that gave supporters a tiny lead.

The Gallup poll showed 49 per cent would vote "yes" to EU entry, 44 per cent "no" and the remaining seven per cent were undecided.

Other surveys have found an even larger percentage of "don't knows", around 20 per cent, meaning that up to 1.3 million of the country's 6.5 million voters are not sure how to respond to the question: "Do you believe Sweden should join the European Union in line with the agreement between Sweden and the EU member states?"

Most newspapers and mainstream politicians say the answer has to be "yes," but until now they have not actively sought votes from the undecided for fear of a backlash of "no" votes and a huge national embarrassment that could even bring down the government.

On Saturday, however, the establishment seemed to throw its caution to the chilly winter wind.

In Stockholm's central Sergel Square, where public rallies and celebrations traditionally start, large blue and yellow balloons printed with the EU's ring of 12 stars bobbed on long wires.

Sweden's national colours are yellow and blue, the same as those used on the union's flag. The campaign in the capital has not resorted to such brash methods before, preferring to stick to low-level activism in leaflets, car stickers and posters.

In a televised debate Friday night, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, leader of the Social Democrat Party, teamed up with arch-rival conservative leader Carl Bildt to argue for a "yes".

Mr. Carlsson, usually wary of provoking or strengthening the anti-EU faction inside his own party, turned up the heat on opponents of entry when he exploded: "I have never met such pessimism or such weak faith in the potential of politics before."

Newspaper commentaries warned of the "Nordic tragedy" and "political hangover" that a "no" would cause.

The heavyweight daily Dagens Nyheter reminded its readers they held not only Sweden's economic and political prospects in their hands, but also the fate of neighbouring Norway.

"A yes in Sweden will also give a good chance of a yes in Norway. Nordic teamwork

will gain new life within the EU," it wrote.

Norway is the last of Europe's four members-in-waiting to hold its referendum. Its Nov. 28 vote is likely to end in a "no", according to many opinion polls, though they also show it could be influenced by the decision of the Swedes.

The governments of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Austria all completed membership agreements in March this year which allow them to become full members from Jan. 1, 1995.

Austria and Finland voted "yes" by clear margins.

Norwegian opposition to EU membership continues to rise two weeks ahead of the country's referendum on the issue, according to a new poll published Saturday in the Norwegian daily Dagbladet.

The poll, conducted by the MMI polling institute shows 48 per cent against membership, 29 per cent in favour and 23 per cent undecided.

Compared to a similar poll carried out one week ago, the "no" vote has increased by five per cent, the "yes" vote has slipped by two per cent and the number of "don't knows" has dropped by seven per cent.

The latest poll also asked voters how they would vote if Sweden voted "yes", where a poll Saturday indicated that 53 per cent of voters were in favour of EU membership and 47 per cent against.

## U.S. nuclear experts arrive in N. Korea

LONDON (Agencies) — A team of U.S. nuclear officials arrived in North Korea Saturday to discuss safe storage of spent nuclear fuel. Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

A KCNA dispatch monitored in London said the two sides were beginning negotiations later Saturday and would continue talking until Nov. 19.

The dialogue was taking place under the terms of the October 21 U.S.-North Korean agreement aimed at defusing a dispute over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions that earlier this year had threatened to plunge the North East Asian peninsula into war.

Under the deal, the United States is to form a consortium including South Korea and Japan to provide the North

with light-water nuclear technology at a cost of around \$4 billion to replace its current graphite reactor system by the year 2003.

Light-water reactors (LWRs) produce little of the plutonium that is a key ingredient of nuclear weaponry and is generated in large quantities from graphite-reactor operations.

The specific focus of the negotiations taking place in Pyongyang this next week is to ensure the safe storage of 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods removed last summer from an experimental graphite reactor.

It was North Korea's extraction of this fuel, which could have been processed into weapons-grade plutonium, that range alarm bells in Washington, Tokyo and the South Korean capital Seoul.

The rods have since been stored temporarily in a holding pond.

The Oct. 21 Geneva pact specified: "The DPRK (North Korea) and the U.S. will cooperate in finding a method to store safely the spent fuel from the 5 mw (E) experimental reactor during the construction of the LWR project, and to dispose of the fuel in a safe manner that does not involve reprocessing in the DPRK."

The agreement added that North Korean and U.S. experts would meet to discuss, "as soon as possible... specific arrangements for spent fuel storage and ultimate disposition."

South Korea Saturday welcomed the decision by the U.N. nuclear watchdog to verify the freezing of North Korea's suspect nuclear program.

## Chirac stands down as RPR leader

PARIS (AFP) — Jacques Chirac resigned Saturday as head of his deeply divided neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) party to prepare his campaign for French presidential elections in April-May next year.

Mr. Chirac told a specially convened meeting of the RPR leadership that he would be replaced during the campaign by Alain Juppé, foreign minister in the conservative coalition government headed by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Balladur, an underdog rival as standard-bearer of the right for next year's presidential poll, was noticeably absent from Saturday's meeting, which was due to hold a vote of confidence effectively endorsing Mr. Chirac's candidacy.

Also absent were Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, an influential figure in the party's rightwing, and Philippe Seguin, president of the National Assembly who had been considered a strong Chirac ally.

The two said in a statement released Thursday that they would boycott the meeting because they disapproved of the plan to endorse Mr. Chirac's candidacy despite continuing strong support among some RPR members for a Balladur presidential bid.

## IRA: All weapons use banned since truce

BELFAST (AFP) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has banned the use of arms by its members since Aug. 31, an IRA statement said Saturday.

"The IRA leadership has granted no one permission to use arms since Aug. 31," the statement said, referring to the day it announced a ceasefire in the Northern Ireland conflict for Sept. 1.

"The IRA's cessation of military operations is a complete one and covers any use of arms."

The statement was issued after a bungled hold-up left an Ulster postal worker dead Thursday, which police blamed on Irish nationalists.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in Belfast had said hours after the killing two "high-ranking Republican nationalists" were arrested and a third was being sought after Frank Kerr, 54, was shot in the head at a sorting office in Newry near the Irish border early Thursday.

The IRA immediately denied any responsibility for the killing, saying its Sept. 1 ceasefire was still in force.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew said Friday there were "reasonable suspicions" over the Irish Republican Army's role in Thursday's hold-up and the theft of a large amount of cash.

The moderate loyalist Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) said Friday it would boycott any talks with the IRA's legal political wing Sinn Féin, despite the IRA ceasefire.

## Marriage lasted 17½ hours

BONN (AFP) — Germany's shortest-ever marriage has ended after just 17 and a half hours, Bild newspaper reported Friday. That was the time it took hairdresser Karin, 25, and pub landlord Hans-Werner, 33, to go from the Registry Office to a divorce lawyer, the paper said. Fists began to fly as soon as their wedding night began.

## Miss World, with 87 competitors, claims record

SUN CITY, South Africa (AFP) — The Miss World Pageant claimed a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the largest number of participants in a beauty contest when 87 young women lined up here Friday for a group photograph. The previous record, also set in this northwestern province resort two years ago, saw contestants almost dropped to 86 when Miss Belgium, Isabelle Meulemeester, 23, fell and injured herself in the dressing room before the shooting session, the organisers said. She was eventually helped on stage to participate in the group snap.

## Liberal Democrats lose again to Lateral Democrats

LONDON (R) — Britain's centrist Liberal Democrats Friday lost their appeal for a European parliamentary election re-run after complaining they were robbed by a political impostor calling himself a "Liberal Democrat."

The election court ruled there was nothing unlawful in retired headmaster Richard Huggett calling himself a Liberal Democrat in last June's election in the western English constituency of Devon. The two judges in the court ruled: "It is clear that the rules do not prohibit candidates (whether out of spite or a wicked sense of fun) from describing themselves in a confusing way or indulging in spoiling tactics."

Liberal Democrat Adrian Sanders polled 74,253 votes, just 700 behind Giles Chichester, candidate of the ruling Conservative Party. Hoggett took 10,203 votes even though he issued no campaign literature. The judges dismissed Mr. Sanders' petition and declared Mr. Chichester duly elected.

## Newborn baby survives trash compactor

NEW YORK (AFP) — A newborn baby stuffed in towels and plastic with a sock crammed in its mouth barely escaped death when a building supervisor decided not to compact trash in the chute the baby was thrown down.

The infant, with 15 centimetres (six inches) of umbilical cord still attached, survived the drop from one of the hatches in the six-story building's garbage chute early Thursday according to police, landing in piles of garbage below. The child was saved from being crushed when building superintendent Caesar De Leon decided to hand sort garbage instead of compacting it with the machine as he usually does. Mr. De Leon said he heard faint noises as he picked through plastic bottles and food wrappers and pulled out the clump of towels, but he was not sure where the sounds came from. He tossed the bundle and other refuse into a garbage bag and heaved the load down a flight of stairs where other bags awaited collection. Then he heard the faint noise again. "I didn't think I had a baby here," Mr. De Leon said. "I thought it was maybe a cat."

Mr. De Leon cut the bag open, discovered the child and called the authorities. Rescue personnel reported the baby was stiff, blue and cold when they arrived, but emergency revival procedures brought the child back. The baby is in a hospital listed in good condition. Police conducted a door-to-door search for the mother but have reported no leads.

Baby saver De Leon, himself a father of two, remained agitated by the discovery. "I can still see him in the garbage," Mr. De Leon said. "It makes me nervous. It makes me sad." Thursday police in Pomona, California, charged Araceli Garcia with killing her newborn baby and tossing it into a neighbour's yard where a dog mauled it. Authorities charged Garcia, 19, with murder and endangering a child for placing the baby after its birth within the dog's reach on Nov. 4.

## Militants hold off Pakistani attack

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Heavily-armed Islamic militants held off Pakistani paramilitary forces trying to quell unrest in the northwestern tribal Bajaur Agency, witnesses said.

The rebels are demanding the enforcement of Sharia (Islamic Law) in their semi-autonomous tribal areas.

Paramilitary Frontier

Corps officers said six of their men had been wounded in the operation which began Friday after negotiations between the government and the Tehrik Nefaz Shariat Mohammadi (TNSM) movement broke down.

There was no word on casualties among the rebels and a doctor at a civilian hospital in Bajaur Khar, Mohammad Yusuf Khan,

said the rocket, mortar and rifle fire had been too heavy to allow casualties to be brought to hospital.

Some of the heaviest battles were going on around Nawagai, near the Afghan border, and around a commercial college about two kilometres outside Bajaur Khar where militants were putting up stiff resistance after losing ground earlier.



Philippine leftist demonstrators march to the U.S. embassy carrying an effigy of Uncle Sam and Philippine President Fidel Ramos to denounce the upcoming visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton in Manila (AFP photo)

## Clinton protesters march in Manila

MANILA (AP) — Shouting "Clinton out" and "Yankees go home" 1,000 leftists marched through Manila Saturday, several hours before President Bill Clinton's arrival.

As they passed through university areas, the protesters — mostly college students — urged people to join them.

At nightfall, they lit torches and protested outside Malacanang Palace, where President Fidel Ramos and Mr. Clinton plan to meet Sunday and hold a nationally televised news conference.

The League of Filipino Students, which organised the demonstration, often protests U.N. economic influence over their country and the mutual defence treaty, which remains in effect despite the 1992 withdrawal of all U.S. forces.

Calling Mr. Ramos, a former military general, "puppet," and "fascist," the students want him to deny U.S.

forces permission to refuel their warships and store military supplies here.

Earlier Saturday, 100 Filipinos held another protest near the U.S. embassy to urge Mr. Clinton to order a cleanup of alleged toxic wastes at two former U.S. bases in the Philippines.

Most of the demonstrators wore black masks with white skulls painted on the front. Police stopped them from reaching the embassy compound but allowed them to hold a brief rally.

Meanwhile, plunging into foreign policy after devastating election losses, President Clinton flew to the Far East Saturday to campaign for free trade and commemorate World War II victories in the Pacific a half-century ago.

After a refueling stop in Alaska, Mr. Clinton flew through the night to Manila the first visit by an American president to the Philippines since 1975. A state arrival

ceremony was planned Sunday at Malacanang Palace.

In contrast to the sweltering weather awaiting him in Manila, there was a foot (30 cms) of snow on the ground at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska where the president spoke during a refueling stop.

Urging unity after Republican captured the House and Senate in Tuesday's elections for the first time in 40 years, Mr. Clinton said: "Let us now join together to move this country forward in the best American spirit."

Still smarting from his political losses, he said "we are in the midst of an economic recovery that is the envy of the world and yet, still, a majority of ordinary Americans... (are) worried about the crime in our streets or the stability of their jobs or the security of their health care benefits."

In a global economy, Mr. Clinton said, "we have to fight and struggle for every single opportunity we have."

## Timor protesters bed down at U.S. embassy in Jakarta

JAKARTA (R) — East Timorese students demanding U.S. President Bill Clinton's support for the release of their guerrilla hero invaded the U.S. embassy compound Saturday and nine hours later settled down for the night.

U.S. officials told them to leave by the end of the day, but they vowed to stay until their demands were met, threatening Mr. Clinton with some acute political embarrassment when he arrives here Sunday for a high profile summit.

Twenty-nine young men seeking the release of guerrilla chief Xanana Gusmao clambered over 2.6 metre (8 ft)-high spikes into an embassy parking lot, where they squatted nervously on the concrete saying they would go on hunger strike until they met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"America is the only superpower in the world. We think the Americans can use their influence to save the situation in East Timor," one demonstrator shouted.

Mr. Christopher was here for ministerial meetings to prepare for the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit Tuesday hosted by Indonesia President Suharto and to be attended by Mr. Clinton and a host of heads of government.

Embassy officials at first said the students could stay as long as they wished, but three hours later ordered them out by the end of the day.

Mr. Christopher, who pledged to raise concerns ab-

out East Timor with Indonesian authorities, said the United States would not move forcefully against the protesters.

"We have no plans to... throw them out," he told reporters before rushing to Manila to link up with Mr. Clinton on his way here. "We are dealing with the situation with sympathy and understanding, as well as firmness."

An embassy official told Reuters the Indonesian government had given assurances there would be no arrests or reprisals if the demonstrators left the compound, and that these promises had been relayed to the students.

"We are hoping they will leave voluntarily and peacefully," said spokeswoman Pamela Smith. She said the embassy "as a matter of law and practice" did not grant asylum in Indonesia.

The students gave no sign they would back down.

"We will not leave until our demands are met," said one.

When the tropical night fell, some of the protesters settled down to sleep.

They had no food or water and an embassy spokeswoman said she knew of no plans to give them supplies. Water is crucial in Indonesia's body-sapping heat.

Some journalists defied police attempts to block them and tossed protesters plastic bottles of water.

Several hundreds police, some with automatic weapons, were positioned

outside the compound.

The demonstration was a setback for 73-year-old Suharto as he prepared to welcome leaders of half of the world's peoples.

He regards the summit as a highlight of his 27 years in power and wanted to keep Indonesia's human rights record off the agenda of 2,000 journalists covering the event.

But it was also another potential embarrassment for Mr. Clinton, already reeling from a mauling in mid-term congressional elections. Human rights activists have accused him of putting commerce before more humanitarian concerns.

Indonesia's rule over the former Portuguese colony, 2,000 kilometres east of Jakarta, has become a focus for allegations of human rights abuses.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 — a day after a visit by U.S. President Gerald Ford — and annexed it a year later. But its authority is not recognised by the United Nations.

It has since faced dwindling guerrilla resistance and widespread resentment, especially among younger Timorese.

A statement issued on behalf of the students called on Mr. Clinton to press for the release of Mr. Xanana, 47, jailed for life last year after a trial dismissed by human rights activists as a farce. Mr. Suharto later reduced the sentence to 20 years.

Mr. Xanana, in an open letter to the U.S. president circulated in Jakarta Friday, appealed to Mr. Clinton for

help, asking him to raise the Timor issue in meetings with Mr. Suharto.

Mr. Christopher Saturday said that North Korea could aspire to membership of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum once it cleared doubts over its nuclear programme and other issues.

"Looking down the road, membership of APEC and other regional organisations is something the North Koreans can aspire to if their isolation ended and their conduct merits that kind of membership," Mr. Christopher said.

He said that a current moratorium on admitting new countries into APEC, which ends in two years, would allow the group to assess whether Pyongyang had made progress in resolving other issues like its abuse of human rights and support for terrorism.

Mr. Christopher was speaking at a news conference here at the end of a two-day meeting of foreign and trade ministers of the 18-member APEC, whose leaders will hold their second summit in nearby Bogor Tuesday.

Christopher said that a framework accord between the U.S. and Pyongyang on the nuclear issue was still in its early stages.

"I think that if that is resolved and North Korea takes serious other action they will begin to draw some of the benefits of becoming a member of the family of nations," he said.



## Marriage lasted 17½ hours

ROMA, AFP — A couple who had been married for 17½ hours, a record for the duration of a marriage, were divorced on Saturday.

## Miss World, with 87 competitors, claims record

SINGAPORE, AFP — The Miss World beauty pageant, which has 87 competitors, claims to be the largest in the world.

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## Newborn baby survives trash compactor

NEW YORK, AFP — A newborn baby survived being crushed in a trash compactor.



Bosnian Serb fighters patrol through the woods near the front line some 5km south of the western town of Bihać (AFP photo)

## Over a million protest against Berlusconi

ROME (R) — Huge crowds estimated by organisers at well over one million people demonstrated in central Rome Saturday against the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Union leaders said up to 1.5 million people had taken to the streets, sending an extremely strong signal to Mr. Berlusconi, who faces a vote of confidence over the 1995 budget Monday.

"This is the largest demonstration of all times," said Sergio d'Antoni, leader of the CISL trades union, one of three big confederations to call the protest.

National Police Chief Fernando Masone said his force was updating its latest crowd estimate of 600,000-700,000. It is quite possible that we will reach organisers' figure of one million.

Demonstrators from five different marches filled three

of Rome's most historic open spaces — the Piazza Del Popolo, the Circus Maximus and St. John's Square — to capacity.

The protest took on the atmosphere of a carnival, with hundreds dressed as caricatures of Mr. Berlusconi and his allies and many more carrying effigies to symbolise their complaints.

A small number of demonstrators broke away from the main body of the protest to hurl abuse at Mr. Berlusconi outside the television studios of his Fininvest Company.

Some coins were thrown and a stone was hurled at a police truck, but no injuries were reported.

Workers, pensioners and students had travelled through the night in coaches, chartered trains and car ferries to express their anger at the government's plans.

One group of demonstrators carried large dustbins emblazoned with the names

of Mr. Berlusconi and his two big coalition allies — Umberto Bossi, the leader of the federalist Northern League, and Gianfranco Fini, head of the neo-fascist-led national alliance.

Hundreds more carried small posters showing a fist with its middle finger raised over a slogan, "the index of appreciation."

Mr. Berlusconi's own employees took part in the protest, some travelling overnight by train to join in.

"We all used to believe in him — no longer," said a woman who works for Mr. Berlusconi's media empire.

She asked not to be named. "Let's get rid of Berlusconi, the new duce," another banner said, calling the prime minister by the title of wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. Helicopters hovered overhead.

Protesters from the Piedmont region in the northwest,

the worst hit by devastating floods that killed 64 people last week, carried flags and banners spattered with mud.

Police with truncheons and crash helmets attached to their belts and carrying gas masks in bags slung on their shoulders were dotted along the routes of the marches.

Cabinet spokesman Giuliano Ferrara said the demonstration, ostensibly called to protest against cuts in health and pensions spending, had become an anti-government protest.

"We respect those who disagree with us and must take their feelings into account," said Mr. Ferrara, a former editor-in-chief with one of Mr. Berlusconi's three national television stations.

"But governments are not toppled cabinet rank. He defended the government, saying it simply no longer had the money to continue paying out pensions at the rate it was.

## U.S. says U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia will not be broken

SARAJEVO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, attempting to soothe American allies on Bosnia, promised Saturday that Washington would not break a U.N. arms embargo by supplying weapons to Muslim forces.

A U.S. decision to withdraw from the international naval blockade enforcing the embargo has upset countries who have troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia.

Mr. Christopher told reporters in Jakarta that the United States had no intention of supplying weapons to Muslim-led Bosnian government forces.

President Bill Clinton ordered U.S. warships in the Adriatic to stop intercepting vessels suspected of smuggling arms for the Muslims from midnight Saturday.

"I wouldn't say it will have no effect but I would not say it will have a significant effect because the arms embargo will be enforced by others," Mr. Christopher said.

He stressed that the United States would continue to apply the embargo to Bosnia, Serbs, and that the U.S. Air Force would remain active in the task force enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia.

The Serbs have taunted the U.N. by shelling Bihać from territory they hold in neighbouring Croatia where peacekeepers have no mandate to intervene.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has vowed to disarm Bosnian government forces in Bihać which shelters 180,000 Muslim civilians deprived of all outside aid since June by a Serb blockade.

Bosnian Defence Minister Jadranko Prica met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Saturday and said Bosnia would ask Croatia to intervene in the Bihać fighting to help Muslims.

Meanwhile the German news weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday that Bosnia's Serbs have been getting modern weaponry from Russian troops in breach of a United Nations arms embargo.

In an advance release from this week's edition, the magazine said the Serbs had received 83 122-millimetre Howitzers with a range of 15 kilometres in September alone.

Der Spiegel said it had reliable estimates that some 4,000 railway wagons of Russian weaponry and munitions had been diverted to the Bosnian Serbs. Some Russian elite units were missing modern S-300B anti-aircraft missiles, it added.

It quoted the Frankfurt Institute for Soviet Studies as saying that most of the arms came from the stocks of the Western Army Group, the Russian troops who were stationed in former East Ger-

many until the last of them pulled out in August.

Their commander, General Matvei Burlakov, was made a first deputy defence minister after his return to Moscow but was sacked on Nov. 1.

Over the last 18 months, many Russian media articles have detailed what they say is firm evidence that Gen. Burlakov and the Western Army Group were involved in large-scale arms smuggling.

Russia expressed concern Saturday over the unilateral U.S. decision to stop enforcing a U.N. arms embargo on Bosnia, saying it could signal a general reluctance to work as a team in solving international problems.

A brief but carefully worded statement issued by the Foreign Ministry described the U.S. decision, announced Friday, as "regretful and worrisome."

"What causes concern is not just the step as such but rather its general thrust," the statement said.

"For various reasons, including domestic ones, the United States appear increasingly insistent in pushing through unilateral decisions which are not in the framework of agreed collective action," the statement said.

Special U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi (left) gestures as he answers journalists' questions with Ejup Galić (right), vice-president of the Bosnian-Croat Federation, in Sarajevo. Both men had met earlier with British Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Bosnian army commander Rasim Delic, with whom they discussed the latest developments in Bosnia (AFP photo)

U.N. spokesman Koos Sol said the military situation was "highly tense and unstable with the BSA tightening the

where the rebel movement's leader Jonas Savimbi had his headquarters.

The radio, monitored in Sao Tome and Principe, said UNITA forces had prevented government soldiers from reinforcing positions and hundreds of troops had been killed.

There was no sign of establishing the veracity of the differing accounts, but aid sources said the government appeared to be in control of Huambo, including the airport.

The Zambian government official said in Lusaka Saturday he expected the Angolan government to stop fighting "as a sign of good faith."

On Friday, the same official said: "We have said to the Angolan government that

we want a commitment they are going to stop the fighting, and they have agreed to that, so there should be a de facto ceasefire."

There was no sign in the Zambian capital Lusaka by mid-afternoon of a UNITA military delegation due in from Zaire for talks with Luanda government on technical details of the planned ceasefire.

A U.N. official described the mood in the Zambian capital as one of "quiet panic."

The delegation had been due Thursday but delayed its departure because of the Huambo fighting.

After feverish diplomatic efforts to get peace back on track, the meeting was

switched to Friday and then Saturday because of delays in flying the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) delegation from Kinshasa.

"We have spoken with UNITA's representative at the U.N. who has been in constant touch with Savimbi and the question of their delegation arriving in Lusaka is definite. Savimbi has reiterated that they must proceed," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

There has been no word on the whereabouts of Savimbi since Friday when an official South African source said South African intelligence believed he had left Huambo for his old wartime headquarters at Jamba in Angola's remote southeast.

## Violence kills 4 in Bangladesh; strike begins

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's capital was virtually paralysed by a general strike Saturday after four people were killed in clashes and by a bomb that police said had been meant for use during the protest.

Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen revived a stalled attempt to end Bangladesh's protracted political crisis and held a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The strike was called by Bangladesh's three largest

opposition parties to try to force Ms. Khaleda's government to step down and call new elections under a caretaker administration.

Opposition parties have boycotted parliament since February and staged strikes and street protests to press their demands, which the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has rejected as unconstitutional.

Opposition activists set off dozens of explosions in Dhaka early Saturday as the dawn-to-dusk strike began, witnesses said.

Four people were killed and many injured in a bomb blast and clashes late Friday ahead of Saturday's strike.

Police said no one was hurt in Saturday's stonings and bombings.

The deaths on the eve of the strike occurred outside the capital as opposition parties prepared to widen the stoppage nationwide Sunday, police added.

Three people died when a powerful bomb they were making, apparently for use during the strike, exploded in the southeastern town of

Chandpur. At least five others were injured in the blast, local officials told reporters.

Another man was shot dead Friday at Narayanganj 18 kilometres from Dhaka in fighting between supporters of the BNP and its main Awami League rival, police said.

In Dhaka Saturday, a few bicycle rickshaws provided the only transport with public networks at a standstill. Offices, banks, schools and businesses were mostly closed.

## Ruling party leads in Mozambique elections

MAPUTO (R) — Vote counting in Mozambique's first multi-party general elections passed the half-way mark Saturday, with President Joaquim Chissano and his ruling FRELIMO party in front of the rival former rebel RENAMO movement.

National Electoral Commission (CNE) figures showed that with about 55 per cent of ballots counted from the Oct. 27-29 polls, Mr. Chissano had more than

1.6 million votes to RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama's 852,150 in the presidential race.

In the battle for the 250-seat parliament, RENAMO had 911,952 votes compared to more than 1.3 million votes for FRELIMO, which has ruled since 1975 independence from Portugal.

Results are being declared according to returns from polling stations rather than

on a broader provincial tally, making a projection on lines of known support base more difficult.

But results so far seem to confirm RENAMO, once derided by many Mozambicans as a band of terrorists and accused by Western governments of war-time atrocities, as the second most powerful political force in the land.

Most poll analysts predict final results would give Mr.

Chissano a clear victory in the presidential race over Mr. Dhlakama. But FRELIMO is expected to claim only a narrow win in the assembly, prompting unease about division after the elections.

The elections were aimed at consolidating 1992 peace accords between the Mozambican government and RENAMO after 16 years of brutal civil war in the impoverished southern African country.

## Rwandan army kills 14 in tense southwest zone

KIGALI (R) — Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government army has killed 14 Hutus in the south-west where hostility is mounting between the country's new rulers and Hutu villagers and refugees, U.N. officials said Saturday.

Soldiers are forcibly evacuating refugee camps where they fear concentrations of Hutu refugees pose a threat following the genocide of about one million Tutsis by the Hutu majority under the old Hutu government earlier this year.

Sammy Kumbi, spokesman for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said seven refugees were killed Thursday when Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) soldiers tried to forcibly evacuate Musange, a camp of up to 2,000 Hutus north of the town of Gikongoro.

As the soldiers torched the shelters, small arms fire erupted in the camp, one of many set up in June as Hutus fleeing the advance of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front sought safety in a "safe zone" set up by French troops who later left.

Zambian U.N. troops

who tried to intervene were surrounded by the RPA, but there was no exchange of fire," said Mr. Kumbi.

In an incident Friday, seven people died and at least 13 were wounded when an RPA patrol opened fire in Musebeya village.

UNAMIR said it understood soldiers first fired into the air after stone-throwing villagers surrounded them in a marketplace, and then shot into the crowd when it refused to disperse.

Zambian troops later disarmed the patrol and escorted them to their base.

But the aid agency feed the children, which was in Musebeya distributing food to refugees, said the RPA had said it was acting in self defence after a grenade was thrown. It described people being shot as they fled the scene.

Feed The Children is among 13 non-governmental organisations which have suspended their activities in the Gikongoro area because of the incidents and demanded a government explanation.

U.N. officials say they received daily reports of incidents in the former French

protection zone, where relations between the mainly Tutsi soldiers and Hutu villagers and refugees appear to be at breaking point.

Four months after the end of the civil war, up to 500,000 Hutu refugees in the southwest are refusing to return home, many of them convinced they will be killed by the RPA.

More than one million hut refugees are living in camps outside Rwanda.

As frustration and anger mount in the camps and rains worsen living conditions, the refugees are becoming more openly hostile to the new government army.

"The RPA tell us that every time they pass a displaced persons camp people shout, throw stones and even grenades at them," said Mr. Kumbi.

"People are getting more daring and more willing to provoke. We are seeing a disturbing increase in violence both in the camps and outside."

Musange was the fourth camp to be targeted for evacuation by the army. In October three camps in the Kibuye district further to the

west were forcibly cleared by the RPA.

UNAMIR says officially it is satisfied by assurances from the authorities that forcible evacuation is not government policy but many U.N. personnel are convinced the RPA has launched a systematic campaign to raze the camps.

"They seem to be moving southwards," said one officer who asked not to be named. "The trouble is that if they're just driving the refugees from one camp to another it's not going to solve anything."

The U.N. has reinforced its troop presence in the area in a bid to stem the violence. A Zambian battalion recently joined Ethiopian, Ghanaian and Indian troops in the area.

But U.N. officials say the situation will deteriorate until the government can convince refugees both inside its borders and in Zaire and Tanzania it is safe to return.

They say an essential prerequisite is massive bilateral aid to allow the government to build new houses, pay its fractious army and reconstruct Rwanda's shattered civil service, police force and judicial system.

## Angola: No deal to halt war before ceasefire

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government said Saturday it had not agreed to halt fighting with UNITA rebels ahead of a full ceasefire and state radio reported a fierce battle in a southern province.

"It is not true," government spokesman Almediro De Conicacao told Reuters when asked to comment on remarks by a Zambian government official who said Luanda had agreed to stop fighting and a de facto ceasefire in Angola should follow.

"We are going to fulfil the calendar that has been established," said Mr. De Conicacao, apparently referring to the planned formal signing with UNITA rebels of a peace pact on Nov. 15 and a ceasefire due to come into force two days later.

The two sides initialled a peace agreement in the Zambian capital Lusaka on Oct. 31 after 11 months of tough talks, but fighting has continued.

State radio said fighting was taking place near a town identified as Masseque in the southern province of Cuando Cubango Saturday.

"The war has not stopped. Heavy fighting began yesterday. Shelling is continuing now," it said.

A government offensive on the UNITA bastion of Huambo has thrown the peace process in doubt, with the rebel movement saying it was not prepared to talk peace while it was under attack.

The government said Friday it had captured Huambo, but UNITA Radio said Saturday fierce fighting was still taking place in the city.

where the rebel movement's leader Jonas Savimbi had his headquarters.

The radio, monitored in Sao Tome and Principe, said UNITA forces had prevented government soldiers from reinforcing positions and hundreds of troops had been killed.

There was no sign of establishing the veracity of the differing accounts, but aid sources said the government appeared to be in control of Huambo, including the airport.

The Zambian government official said in Lusaka Saturday he expected the Angolan government to stop fighting "as a sign of good faith."

On Friday, the same official said: "We have said to the Angolan government that

we want a commitment they are going to stop the fighting, and they have agreed to that, so there should be a de facto ceasefire."

There was no sign in the Zambian capital Lusaka by mid-afternoon of a UNITA military delegation due in from Zaire for talks with Luanda government on technical details of the planned ceasefire.

A U.N. official described the mood in the Zambian capital as one of "quiet panic."

The delegation had been due Thursday but delayed its departure because of the Huambo fighting.

After feverish diplomatic efforts to get peace back on track, the meeting was

switched to Friday and then Saturday because of delays in flying the UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) delegation from Kinshasa.

"We have spoken with UNITA's representative at the U.N. who has been in constant touch with Savimbi and the question of their delegation arriving in Lusaka is definite. Savimbi has reiterated that they must proceed," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

There has been no word on the whereabouts of Savimbi since Friday when an official South African source said South African intelligence believed he had left Huambo for his old wartime headquarters at Jamba in Angola's remote southeast.

Children raise their fists during celebrations of government troops control the town having pushed UNITA 10kms out (AFP photos)

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## Fate of Irish government hangs in balance

DUBLIN (R) — The fate of the Irish government hung in the balance Saturday after a row between Prime Minister Albert Reynolds and his deputy, Dick Spring, which could have an impact on a peace drive for Northern Ireland.

Mr. Spring's parliamentary Labour Party, junior partner in the two-year-old coalition, was due to hold talks at a Dublin hotel Sunday to decide whether or not to pull out of the government in protest at the appointment of a new

high court president.

Political sources said it was too early to predict what the outcome of the meeting would be but said that it would usher in a long period of uncertainty.

Labour ministers walked out of the cabinet meeting Friday where Attorney-General Harry Whelehan was appointed president of the High Court in what they said was a decision on which Mr. Reynolds' Fianna Fail party had not consulted them.

Political sources said Labour could decide to pull out of the government, leaving Mr. Reynolds either to call fresh general elections or try to push ahead with a minority government.

The row was being closely monitored by the British government because of its likely impact on a year-old peace drive for Northern Ireland by Mr. Reynolds and British Prime Minister John Major.

A collapse of the government or a lengthy period of limbo could slow the pace of

what both men have said is the best chance of peace for decades.

Labour threatened to provoke early elections last month when Mr. Reynolds nominated Mr. Whelehan but the row was shelved for the sake of government unity.

But it resurfaced in parliament in angry exchanges over an extradition warrant from Northern Ireland for a Northern priest, Brendan Smyth, wanted on child sex abuse charges.



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## Renewing bonds of history

THEIR MAJESTIES King Juan Carlos' and Queen Sophia's state visit to Jordan comes at a critical juncture in the transformation of the Middle East from a region of war and conflicts to, hopefully, an oasis of peace and prosperity. The peace treaty between Jordan and Israel that has just been signed and ratified, the prospects of additional breakthroughs on the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, and the promise of a lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem are all encouraging and positive developments which the world as a whole has welcomed with optimism and relief.

Against this background King Juan Carlos' talks with His Majesty King Hussein acquire added importance since its timing is nothing short of meaningful solidarity with what Amman has just celebrated when King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchanged documents of ratification of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord Thursday.

It is also particularly fitting that the Spanish monarch be the first head of state to visit the country in the wake of the completion of all constitutional steps for the treaty with Israel since the whole process that preceded the past three years of achievements was started in Spain.

It was perhaps no accident that Madrid was chosen as the site of the Middle East negotiating process. The parties welcomed then the Spanish offer to host the embryonic talks in deep recognition of its stature in Europe and its honourable record on all past quests for peace in this region. It goes without saying that Spain occupies a central position in Europe and in the efforts of the European Community to become an important region of the world not only in economic matters but also in political, social and cultural concerns. The EU is destined to play a more crucial role in the future of the Middle East especially in the wake of the Casablanca Conference that envisaged a thriving North African and Middle East market. Cooperation between all the Mediterranean countries has always been a basic component of Spain's foreign policy, and the realisation of Arab-Israeli peace will no doubt accelerate the attainment of this goal.

Special credit for cementing the lasting and constructive relations between Spain and Jordan goes in particular to the strong bonds that exist on the personal level between our two monarchs. We take pride in these fraternal ties and highly value Spain's friendship and solidarity with us. If history is any guide to the future, we trust that Spanish ties to Jordan and the Arab World will continue to grow and prosper.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WELCOMING THE Spanish King and Queen in Amman Saturday, Al Ra'i Arabic daily voiced appreciation of Madrid's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East region, citing the Madrid conference three years ago as one major step that led to the conclusion of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty. Lauding the political, social, cultural and economic relations between Jordan and Spain, the daily said that the Arab World has always maintained strong ties with Madrid, especially as Spain is the closest European nation to the Arab region geographically and culturally, said the paper. Indeed, said the paper, the Arabs continue to look to Spain with deep respect, never forgetting that it was the Madrid conference that opened the way for peace between Israel and the Arab World. While remembering the Madrid peace conference and its effects on the future of the Middle East, and as we welcome the King and Queen of Spain in Jordan, said the paper, we can only hope that the Royal visit would open the way for further strengthening of bilateral ties and for enhancing the cause of peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's borders serves as the first step towards normalising relations between the two neighbouring countries after years of hostilities. The Iraqi and the Kuwaiti people have had strong social and cultural relations ever since the creation of the emirate despite the political differences between the two governments, said Mahmoud Rimawi. Paying tribute to Russia for using its good offices to bring about Baghdad's recognition of its neighbour, the writer said that it is hoped that the Kuwaitis will now recognise the Iraqi people's right to life free from sanctions, starvation and sickness so that diplomatic ties can be established between the two sides on a solid foundation. Such a step, he added, is essential for tension to disappear and for security and peace to return to the Gulf region.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Maximising the benefits of peace

THE JORDANIAN-Israeli peace treaty passed through all constitutional stages in both countries as of Nov. 9, and became operational as an irreversible fact of political life in the area. Therefore, anymore arguments for or against the treaty will be aimless and unproductive. The only objective of further arguments would be to damage the name of others or to settle personal accounts, which have nothing to do with peace or with the treaty per se.

The question which is worth discussion from now on is: What about the future after peace? What is going to happen (forecast)? What should happen (national will)? And how to do what ought to be done (planning)? The purpose should be to contain the negative points and minimise their consequences, and to capitalise on the positive points and maximise their impact.

As far as political expectations are concerned we should be realistic. Most likely the treaty did not come up with something new except in formalities and legalistic points of view. In effect, the peace treaty came as a confirmation of a state of affairs which was, to a large extent, already in place.

In the field of economic expectations, we should be more moderate and conservative. True, peace is good economically and will help to raise the level of economic activity and improve the standard of living, but billions of dollars are not going to be showered upon us, simply because the donors are not ready for such a move. We should admit that we do not have specific promises or solid commitments to give us grants or even investments. We should not complain later on of the unfulfilled promises and unkept commitments because we do not have any. When President Bill Clinton addressed us through Parliament, he made two commitments: The first is to write off American debt, the

fulfilment of which is dependent on the consent of the Congress, and the second is related to a \$75 million fund to make investments, which is a tiny amount to have any tangible effect if it were paid directly to our treasury.

There is almost nothing to predict in the media and information and culture spheres. The Israeli TV and broadcasting were always there. Peace may reduce their attractiveness as a source of information about Arab politicians' scandals. If anything, Israeli propaganda activities will become less sensational. Its only asset is the space it gives to the other opinion which we can and should listen to. As far as culture is concerned, Israel has next to nothing to offer and compete. Its language is heavily dependent on Arabic, and its intellectual life is dependent on the Western civilisation.

As far as national will is concerned, we have no problem. At least 80 per cent of the popular will agrees with the official line. This is so by all meaningful measures of the public opinion in the street as well as in Parliament. Consensus is not necessary in a democracy. The minority's objection to the treaty is not harmful as long as its means are legal and nonviolent. So far opposition did not create confusion. Basically, the interests of the country are well-defined and all parties care about the existence and well-being of the country and its role.

Planning for the future is an ongoing process. We should be convinced that others will not provide our needs on a silver platter. This is not essentially the responsibility of America, Europe, Japan, Israel or even the Arab Gulf states. Those who will help us are ourselves through hard work, perseverance and determination to rise up to the challenge and excel. The world will help us only if we help ourselves.

M. KAHIL



## The one-eyed king of real-time news coverage

LONDON — No president or prime minister will ever again enjoy what former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara remembers as the "six-day cocoon of time and privacy" afforded by the absence of television scrutiny which President Kennedy enjoyed in 1962 as he wrestled with the Cuban missile crisis. No foreign or defence minister can expect to repeat the experience of McNamara who did not switch on a television set once "during the whole two weeks of that crisis."

Indeed, no politician or official is today immune from the power of real-time TV news coverage from some far-flung crisis zone to influence policy-making. Yet having interviewed more than 100 diplomatic and military insiders, I conclude that the influence of TV news on foreign policy is not as profound as the conventional wisdom holds. A close review of the interactions between the media and policy shifts during the crisis in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda suggests otherwise. It suggests that instantaneous TV images of corpses littering roads or children on the brink of death from starvation may well induce policy panic, affect a government's tactics and lead to emergency humanitarian missions. But they rarely affect strategy.

The United States Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has directly cautioned against over-emphasising TV images in policy-making, sounding a strong note of resistance — a note increasingly heard in policy circles — against being swayed by the image. He recently told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "television is a wonderful phenomenon and sometimes an instrument of freedom. But television images cannot be the North Star of America's foreign policy." Rick Inderfurth, the Alternate U.S. representative to the United Nations, has offered arguably the most vivid illu-

Nik Gowing, the diplomatic editor of Britain's highly respected Channel Four News from Independent Television News (ITN), recently spent four months at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government's Shorenstein Barone Centre on Press, Politics and Public Policy, where he prepared the most empirical analysis to date on the influence of TV war coverage on foreign policy. The title of his study, from which the following is adapted, is Real Time Television Coverage of Armed Conflicts and Diplomatic Crises: Does It Pressure or Distort Foreign Policy Decisions? His answer: much less than most assume.

mination of the nature of the media. "There are many times," he told me, "when there are horrific images and there is no policy impact. It is very difficult to work out and anticipate how the 'CNN factor' will come into play. It is like waking up with a big bruise, and you don't know where it came from or what hit you."

To grasp this new and complex interplay of media and policy, it is important to understand how the new technology drives real-time news coverage and how the relationship plays itself out in policy-making.

### Decade of the dish

We are in the "Decade of the Dish." While the military arsenal contains the latest stealth and smart technology, the television journalist's arsenal contains a lap-top computer, a Marisat telephone, and a portable up-link satellite dish the size of a large umbrella. Real-time images are those television pictures beamed back live by satellite from a location. Alternatively they may have been taped a few minutes earlier, or perhaps an hour or two beforehand — but little more.

The presence of a satellite dish has created a new grammar and editorial agenda for TV news coverage. It is beamed out of a war zone virtually instantly without the dangerous challenge of dispatching video cassettes by road, air or sea — often through roadblocks and fighting — to a distant TV station. As the

image. Images cannot portray duration, a period of time. An image is an instant of time. For example, Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" cannot be translated into an image. Certain determining policies are already implicitly included in electronic images. The world is presented in a certain way, and thus, when turning on the television, one has already made an ideological choice. Television itself is an ideology, but not the ideology of the progressives. As progressives we take an analytic position, we want to break down reality so we can understand it. Ours is a logical, unemotional, purposeful position, and not just a simple recording of reality. It is a position projecting to the future and not submitting to the present.

The progressive position favours the collective over the individual order. The left (meaning the rationalistic left) was wrong for not taking technological tools seriously. We have made the big mistake of internalising a certain traditional humanism that sees tools as nothing more than an extension of the body. According to this concept, technology has inert and neutral means at its disposal. This isn't so. Tools are never neutral.

For instance, it is wrong to think of television as a sort of radio with images. Television is not a transposition of radio, just as radio is not a transposition of literature. Each form of communication presupposes a definition of man. Reality is a technical classification, and with each transmission technology modifies human reality itself. Today we are paying dearly for the traditional indifference we had toward cultural technologies. That neglect has had enormous political implications, especially in Italy. We have retreated and become blind. Events now take us by surprise.

Is this a result of the way we use television or rather that the image itself is not able to convey a certain type of message or information?

There are undoubtedly certain things that images cannot convey. The image cannot show "humanity" or "the proletariat." It can show a worker, a man. In general, universal types cannot be depicted by an

## Japan unsure what Clinton setback spells for ties

By Linda Sieg Reuter

TOKYO — A crushing defeat for President Bill Clinton in U.S. mid-term elections spells more uncertainty in trade ties with Japan, experts here said on Wednesday.

"Certainly there is a view that because domestic politics will become even more difficult for Clinton, he will have less time to pressure Japan," a Japanese government official said on Wednesday as news trickled in that Republicans looked set to win control of both houses of Congress.

"But it won't necessarily work that way when it comes to actual negotiations," Republican control of both houses of Congress would severely hurt Mr. Clinton's presidency and could spell two years of economic policy gridlock in Washington.

That, some economists in Tokyo said, could mean an easing of U.S. pressure on Japan on the trade front, as Mr. Clinton would be forced to turn most of his energies to domestic struggles.

"Domestic horse-trading in Washington will intensify... and foreign policy in general and Japan policy in particular are likely to fall by the wayside," said one foreign economist. Japanese experts were less sanguine.

"Already there had been criticism from Congress that Clinton's trade policy towards Japan has not produced results, and that is likely to increase," said Kazuaki Harada, chief economist at Sanwa Research Institute. "So the Clinton administration could take an even more aggressive stance."

"The more the U.S. domestic political situation gets confused, the more they are likely to get tough towards the outside," said diplomat-turned-consultant Yukio Okamoto. Tokyo has already seen

Mr. Clinton's Japan policy shift, most recently in a somewhat more palatable direction.

Determined to take a different tack from his predecessors, Mr. Clinton made clear early on that economic issues would not take a back seat to the security considerations which at times in the past had led Washington to ease up on the trade front.

In July 1993 he launched with great fanfare the bilateral economic framework talks, an approach which insisted on concrete, measurable results from any trade deals.

That approach spawned months of haggling, as Japan dug in its heels and refused to accept what it feared were numerical trade targets which could prompt U.S. sanctions if not met.

On Oct. 1 the two sides clinched their first trade pact after 15 months of sparring, producing deals on access to Japan's government procurement and insurance markets that both sides claimed left their principles unscathed.

U.S. officials still talk of results, but in recent weeks have also begun speaking of "systemic" or "structural" issues like deregulation, terms reminiscent of the structural impediments initiative (SII) launched by Republican George Bush.

The shift in emphasis has been welcomed by some Japanese officials and many businessmen as it echoes domestic calls to cut through the red tape critics say strangles economic growth.

At the same time, experts said, Japan appears to be losing its status as the linchpin of Washington's Asian trade policy, which is turning instead towards other dynamic markets in the region. "I don't have the sense that Japan issues are on anybody's agenda, whether Democratic or Republican," said a U.S. businessman in Tokyo.

## LETTERS

### Mayo Clinic to work with Arab Centre

To the Editor:

WITH REFERENCE to a news item in the Jordan Times (Nov. 10-11), concerning the opening of two major hospitals by His Majesty the King, we would like to make the following comment.

In a quotation attributed to Dr. Daoud Hanania, the name of the Mayo Clinic was brought up as one of possible centres of excellence that the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery is intending to have close affiliation with.

We would like to inform you that Dr. Hanania has already approached the Mayo Clinic with this regard, and was informed by the Mayo Clinic, that there was no intention by the Mayo Clinic to have such an affiliation with the Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery as the Mayo Clinic is already committed to the Amman Diagnostic Clinic and the King Hussein Medical Centre.

Dr. Hanania's persistence on mentioning the Mayo Clinic in the above mentioned context is considered as unjustified insinuations, leading to erroneous conclusions by the readers.

Dr. Jihad Barghouti,  
Chairman of the Board,  
Amman Diagnostic Clinic.

### Journalist behind bars

To the Editor:

I AM NADA Hassan Al-Mowaswes, the wife of Abdul Rahman Al Emam Al Hussein, a journalist who is still in the difficult situation and emotional trauma my family, especially my two daughters, has been living for more than three years.

After the liberation of Kuwait, my husband, who was living in Kuwait city, received a telephone call from the local police station requesting him to report to the police station the next morning. My husband reported to the local police station the next morning and was arrested for 50 days.

Later, my husband and five other journalists were sentenced to death and was denied the right to appeal. Ten days later, the court reduced the sentence when the visiting Britain where he declared that the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

I am not only suffering from the absence of the head of my family, but I also suffer from the pain of not being able to explain to my two daughters the whereabouts of their father and what has happened to him. I try my best not to hurt their feelings, and give them the hope of seeing their father.

My two daughters, Suzan and Yasmeen, my old parents-in-law, other family members and myself, are just living and waiting for the day of the return of Abdul Rahman.

Nada Hassan,  
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address, as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

New Perspective Quarterly.



# Perspectives of the peace process



**"People are not solely economic entities; they are more than instruments for producing commodities. Human beings must not be seen merely as the means of production and prosperity. The end towards which all of our efforts are focused must surely be the quality of human life, and this is shaped by intangible as well as material considerations."**

FOLLOWING is the full text of an address given by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan yesterday to the roundtable on "The Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process"

IT IS my pleasure to participate in the opening of this roundtable. Everyone here today has taken part, over the years, in the Middle East's search for peace. I cannot begin to tell you how much we have appreciated your involvement. I myself have spent time with many of you in the past, discussing the prospects for peace, and the potential for the future. Now, that future has arrived; and peace has finally come.

In three short years, the Middle East has been utterly transformed. The threshold has been attained and new vistas are opening up. The PLO and Israel, old adversaries, are now partners in peace-making. Their mutual recognition, and the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy accord, opened the way for this transformation — much still needs to be done. On the Syrian-Israeli track, recent statements from both parties indicate an acceptance of the necessity for peace, and the pragmatic considerations involved. We hope they and the Lebanon will find the common ground necessary to breathe the psychological barriers that exist on both sides. And for our part, we in Jordan have made our peace.

The treaty between Jordan and Israel, ladies and gentlemen, an historic achievement, and one that comes as the culmination of a long and complex process of negotiation. However, it is ultimately no more than an agreement between governments. True peace, it is often said, is peace between people. The question we must now address is how to bring about peace between people at all levels.

Some might say that the battle is over, that our work is done, and that we have earned the right to relax. But we in Jordan know full well that our work is only just beginning. In this new era of peace, the future is whatever we make of it. We have a unique opportunity to put into action our visions, to take part in shaping a new Middle East. At this moment in history, all of us can play a vital role. I for one take heart from the fact that so many of you have been able to come to Amman for this meeting. With this in mind, I would like to share with you a few of my thoughts on the human dimension of peace, and the kind of future that we in Jordan believe is worth working for.

First of all, the bad news.

For a vital partnership between government and private business, as well as between states. We are now studying the options for financial mechanisms, such as the establishment of the Regional Development Bank for the Middle East and North Africa. Jordan will be hosting the follow-up conference in Spring 1995. We must over the next few months, prior to this follow-up conference develop a firm concept for this Regional Development Bank to ensure that it is not only regional in nature.

For we know investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples will be absolutely essential. We know that such projects must be founded upon sound concepts, and receive the support of international financial institutions, governments, businesses and multinational corporations alike. As a long term goal, we want to liberalise and we want to dismantle all barriers in the region whether in terms of trade, investment, labour, capital or services. We have stated that a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of NAFTA or EFTA — is our objective. Different areas of the region are endowed with different resources: labour, capital technology and so forth. It is difficult to request \$3 billion for a regional development bank when the flight of capital, both government and private sector, out of the region is so high (in the range of \$100 billion). This vision of an open Middle East, unshackled from the bonds of conflict and free at last to play a dynamic and constructive role within the world economy, will be an attraction to capital not least of all from within the region. This has sustained us greatly on the path to peace, and will continue to inspire us in the future.

In all of these fields, the experience and assistance of the international community of nations, and the international business community, will be indispensable to the Middle East. However, the region itself must play a leading role in its reconstruction. We hope that the Amman Summit will be thematic. In addition we hope that the Regional Economic Development Working Group (REDWG) will hold their meeting here in Amman prior to the summit and will address a basket of inter-related issues, which must carry the human dimension. We enjoy a rare moment of opportunity, during which we can identify our priorities, and systematically set about realising them.

So what are the priority areas, which most directly touch human lives in our region? I would like to focus on population, education, employment and income, and to outline broad strategies for dealing with these issues.

The combined population of the Arab countries was estimated at 224 million in 1990, and is expected to reach about 288 million by the end of the century. The average population growth rate is 3 per cent. At present rates, the Arab countries will double their population in only 23 years. As a consequence, high rates of growth, around 45 per cent of the population in the Middle East and North Africa is below 15 years old.

These simple demographic factors have far-reaching implications which must be addressed sooner rather than later. The strain on basic resources — food, water and energy — is increasing all the time. The pressure on social services is equally great. We look with great interest at the equivalent of Sarajevo fund for Gaza. I am pleased to see that U.N. representatives are taking steps to develop an integrated human dimension U.N. approach to address developments and improvements in Gaza. This approach must not be localised. The international community's expressions of sympathy and support for endangered groups of people are commendable but this form of selective adoption cannot become a substitute for a broad approach. Clearly, governments have a responsibility to address this fundamental issue.

If governments genuinely set out to limit population growth and to ameliorate its impact, exercising great political will and leadership, the situation is not beyond hope. When we look at U.N. sponsored conferences and U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations we hope that the human content will be evident. Health and education initiatives, particularly for women, are central. (Commending the work of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and the work of the NGOs in Jordan in this regard).

I mentioned the impact of population on education. But education is of itself a priority issue for the developing world. In 1990, around 70 million Arabs, or 57.6 per cent of the population aged 15 and above, were still illiterate, although the rates fluctuate widely throughout the region. Recent studies confirm the importance of education, and particularly primary education, for economic and human development.

Education will also play a role in promoting peace, and fostering understanding of national and regional issues. (Acknowledged the presence of the secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference: the region as Middle East and North Africa must be "inclusive" not "exclusive", ie to include Iran and Turkey. In addition a referendum was made to the difficulty of defining "region" for the proposed Regional Development Bank).

I have been involved in the reform and improvement of the educational system which will result in a more skilled and productive workforce, and may help to tackle the issues of poverty alleviation and unemployment. Poverty has been generally increasing in the Middle East since the 1980s and is unlikely to decrease appreciably in the foreseeable future. Prevailing patterns of development do not allow the creation of adequate job opportunities for the poor. While education can contribute to the elimination of poverty, it must be coupled with the elimination of labour market barriers if its full benefits are to be realised in terms of increased earnings.

Unemployment rates, ladies and gentlemen, in the Middle East, which average about 20 per cent, pose another long-term threat to social stability. Given the region's unusual demography, the 15-25 age group is vastly over-represented among the unemployed. While one can point to macroeconomic imbalances, over-enthusiastic government interventions and supply side structural problems, relatively low investment levels play a large part in the phenomenon of Middle East unemployment. It is estimated that investment levels need to increase from their current level of 20 per cent of GDP to about 30 per cent to generate the kind of growth that would provide adequate job opportunities.

In considering how to en-

bouring countries. These gaps are similar to the gap separating Europe and the Arab countries south of the Mediterranean. Average income levels are over \$12,000 per capita in Israel, a major aid recipient, while that of the Mashreq Arabs is no more than \$800. The existence of such disparities militates against a sustainable peace, providing ammunition for those who reject it. And the main casualty of these disparities is, as always, the process of human development.

In tackling such issues as population, education, unemployment and income disparities, my belief is that it will be necessary to develop an inter-disciplinary perspective, rather than concentrating on each issue in isolation. It will also be necessary to develop a regional perspective, rather than a country-by-country approach. These issues are inter-linked, influencing one another. They respect no boundaries, whether conceptual or geographical, and cannot therefore be dealt with separately.

In more concrete terms, ladies and gentlemen, there is no shortage of worthwhile proposals. I would like to mention the suggestion of establishing a Regional Human Development Centre. Such a centre would serve as a forum for policy coordination in areas such as education, health, poverty, unemployment and so forth. It would be a source of information, and could help design regional projects in the area of human resource development, as well as facilitate private sector participation and collaboration.

Institutions of that kind can make a very solid contribution to a warm peace between people. The post-peace era should be characterised by a fresh outlook that can enrich the human communities in the region. This will require full coordination between all the agencies involved: U.N. agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs. I would like to salute the work of NGOs in Jordan, the occupied territories and the region (eg ANERA). I hope that the proposed Regional Human Development Centre will not be reminiscent of our work in Independent Commission for Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) where we attempted to lobby for the powerless and instead became the powerless lobby for the powerless. It pleases me to note in this context that Jordanian NGOs are becoming more prominent within Jordanian civil society. As part of the long-term process of institution building, such developments will ultimately contribute more to a lasting peace than documents agreed by governments.

In all of this, it is important to distinguish between ends and means. People are not solely economic entities; they are more than instruments for producing commodities. Human beings must not be seen merely as the means of production and prosperity. The end towards which all of our efforts are focused must surely be the quality of human life, and this is shaped by intangible as well as material considerations.

For example, when we

## King, Juan Carlos hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

accompanied by Foreign Minister Javier Solana and Minister of State for Foreign Trade Apolonio Ruiz.

King Juan Carlos will stay on in Jordan to celebrate King Hussein's 59th birthday in Amman on Monday.

King Juan Carlos visited the tombs of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, King Talal Ben Abdullah and Queen Zein Al Sharaf. The Spanish monarch laid wreaths of flowers on the tombs.

He also visited the Martyrs' Monument.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor on a visit to the Jordan Valley later in Friday.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia were briefed by Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Isheidat on projects carried out in the Valley over the past 20 years.

Dr. Isheidat said he hoped that the European Union, which has fully supported the peace process, would offer financial and technical assistance to Jordan, and voiced hope that Spain, which has good relations with Jordan would contribute to such schemes.

Planning Minister Hisham Al Khatib also briefed the Spanish royal couple on future projects which will be carried out to develop the Jordan Valley, of which the most important will be building dams for storing water and pumping it to Amman, developing the Dead Sea beach, digging a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea and treating the Jordan River water for agricultural uses.

The Spanish royal couple and Queen Noor also visited the Dead Sea area and were briefed on plans to develop it.

## Confrontation could spark strife

(Continued from page 1)

already an understanding between Mr. Arafat and Hamas for the latter to carry out attacks against Israel inside the autonomous areas.

Obviously Mr. Arafat did not get such a commitment or an understanding from Islamic Jihad, which even went further in embarrassing the Palestinian leader by staging a large demonstration on Friday to announce and celebrate the attack.

Islamic Jihad was apparently convinced that it had evidence that Israel used local collaborators to plant the bomb on Abed's car. It had already called on the PNA to track down these collaborators, something that Mr. Arafat is prohibited from doing. The Cairo agreement with Israel stipulates that the PNA guarantee the safety of collaborators.

On Friday, there were widespread reports in Gaza that Islamic Jihad has already killed a collaborator and the Palestinian security could not even move against the movement for fear of sparking riots.

The Jordan Times talked to eyewitnesses who said they saw the family of the killed collaborator attacking the Shifa Hospital Friday morning to retrieve the body.

Islamic Jihad activists, a few days before Abed's assassination, including Abed himself in his office, expected Israel to wage an annihilation war against them and Hamas. Consequently, Islamic Jihad might have decided to send another message to Israel warning it that it will hit back.

But Islamic Jihad has chosen a military as

security forces hardly moved to investigate the Abed assassination, and for the first 24 hours, no senior PNA official or security officer turned up at the Abed family residence to pay condolences or even to ask questions.

Many Gazans contrasted such behaviour to the Hamas abduction of an Israeli soldier last month. Gazans recall the extensive house searches, interrogations, arrests and the many checkpoints that were erected everywhere following the kidnapping.

Gaza looked as if it was under a heavy military curfew, a young local Fatah activist told the Jordan Times soon after the failed Israeli attempt to save the kidnapped soldier.

What many Gazans concluded after the Abed assassination was that the Palestinian security forces did not feel as responsible or perhaps capable to do much at that point to find the killers.

Thus, by the time Mr. Arafat returned to Gaza from Casablanca after a short stop over in Cairo, emotions were running high among Gazans, Islamists in particular.

It is not clear yet if the negative reception that Mr. Arafat had never been faced with before in his history as the PLO leader had registered as an expression of protest — as it really was — or if Arafat advisors have convinced him that it was a gang of irresponsible elements as the Palestinian press called the angry mourners.

Analysts and even some PNA officials believe that Mr. Arafat is heading towards a disaster if he did not take the protest of the mourners as a serious warning of what to come. In both cases, however, Mr. Arafat will be faced again and again with the catch 22

situation in which the Cairo agreement has placed the PNA. According to the terms of the Cairo agreement, the PNA is responsible for stopping attacks against Israeli settlements but the PNA does not have much power to protect the Palestinians.

The awkward equation of the Cairo agreement, according to Ghasan Al Khatib, has created "a recipe for civil war." Events in the last months indicate that Mr. Arafat will have to continue to walk a tight rope between averting a civil war and appeasing the Israelis — unless he is forced to make a choice.

Victoria Rialp, area representative of the United Nations Children's Fund, who served as rapporteur of Saturday's first working session of the roundtable, briefed the press Saturday evening on what had transpired during the day's meetings.

Ms. Rialp said there appeared to be a consensus that peace is meant for the people and that investment means investment in the human being.

Ms. Rialp underlined the key points raised by the speakers of the day.

She quoted Dr. Nakajima of WHO as emphasising that the Middle East peace process required an organised and systematic approach with equitable development. This should be more easily facilitated by the freeing of resources formerly channelled into military expenditure.

Dr. Nakajima also spoke of the necessity for "health for all" and pointed to current efforts exerted by WHO in the West Bank and Gaza in establishing health care facilities and acquiring financial aid for the Palestine self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

Connie Peck, coordinator of Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy, stressed the need to prevent conflicts which, she believes, evolve from the violation of basic human needs.

Dr. Peck explained how societies become entrapped in a "conflict cycle" leading to conflict escalation. She recommended that policymakers should adopt ways of de-escalation and should focus on problem-solving methods, including recognising the needs of both parties and finding a balance between them.

Dr. Aligabid of the OIC told the gathering that the essence of the Middle East problem was the Palestinian question. The Palestinian

## PNA detains Islamists

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian authority and on the other hand what to give it to allow it to stand on its own," Mr. Peres told Israeli Radio.

"We must make a supreme effort to allow the Palestinian authority to provide a reasonable subsistence, otherwise their support will fall," he said.

Mr. Peres said it was impossible to fight "kamikazes" with weapons or intelligence.

"A supreme effort is needed to allow the Palestinian Authority to carry out economic development in the Gaza Strip, where more than 800,000 people live in dreadful conditions," Mr. Peres said.

"The improvement of economic conditions will help to reduce the people's support

## Roundtable on human dimension

(Continued from page 1)

It is also the first major event organised by the Institute of Diplomacy, whose executive head is Dr. Mazen Amrout.

Among the participants in the meeting are Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) General Secretary Hamid Algabid, World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Hiroshi Nakajima, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ifer Turkmen, the head of the International Organisation for Migration, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who also heads the non-governmental organisation Care, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State and Middle East expert Richard Murphy, and senior officials from various United Nations agencies as well as international and regional organisations.

The working session of the roundtable was closed to the press.

## Opposition

(Continued from page 1)

the wisdom of these procedures since they can only offend the people and create unnecessary tension.

"In its quest to prevent 'problems', the government is creating problems," said Mustafa Hamameh, director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

In light of obvious support the treaty has, he said, there was no need for the procedures the government has adopted.







# Financial Markets

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Currency	New York Close Date 10/11/94	New York Close Date 11/11/94
Sterling Pound	1.6000	1.5969
Deutsche Mark	1.5285	1.5313
Swiss Franc	1.2835	1.2831
French Franc	5.2565	5.2540
Japanese Yen	97.75	97.73
European Currency Unit	1.2440	1.2438

\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	6.00	5.58	5.87	6.25
Sterling Pound	5.37	5.87	6.12	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06	5.33
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.65	3.87	4.31
French Franc	5.25	5.45	5.68	6.12
Japanese Yen	5.15	5.15	5.31	5.62
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.93	6.18	6.75

Source: Jordan Bank of Commerce, Amman, Jordan. Data as of 10/11/94.

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.1087	1.1142
Deutsche Mark	0.4555	0.4558
Swiss Franc	0.5413	0.5440
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326
Japanese Yen	0.7106	0.7142
Dutch Guilder	0.4044	0.4064
Swedish Krona	0.0445	0.0445
Italian Lira	0.0445	0.0445
Belgian Franc	0.0445	0.0445

\* To 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharal Dinar	1.8270	1.8460
Lebanese Lira	0.041050	0.042340
Saudi Riyal	0.1844	0.1858
Kuwait Dinar	0.3050	0.3050
Omani Riyal	0.1897	0.1912
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8140
UAE Dirham	0.1686	0.1696
Greek Drachma	0.2755	0.2735
Cypriot Pound	1.4350	1.5350

\* To 100

## Strong yen deepens Mazda motor loss

TOKYO (AFP) — The strength of the yen was a key factor behind a worsening of losses at Mazda Motor Corp. the company said when it reported an interim pre-tax loss of 28.6 billion yen (\$286 million).

For the same period of last year the company had reported a loss of 15.5 billion yen.

Mazda said that sales for the period had fallen by two per cent from the figure a year earlier to 538.9 billion yen.

Efforts to increase productivity and reduce costs had not offset "influences of a dramatic appreciation in the value of the yen and a decline in total factory unit sales," the company said.

Mazda's vehicle sales in Japan dipped by 0.5 per cent to 206,983 units, with sales of passenger cars falling 7.4 per cent to 145,837 units.

Its overseas vehicle sales decreased by 2.1 per cent to 289,627 units as exports of cars sagged 1.5 per cent to 250,607 units.

Mazda President Yoshihiro Wada said the company hoped to contain its pre-tax loss for the full year to March at 33 billion yen as expected.

"The business environment will remain challenging due to continuing appreciation of the yen as well as severe competition among manufacturers in Japan and overseas," Mr. Wada said.

"Mazda will accelerate various cost reduction measures with our commitment of minimising the amount of losses for the current fiscal year," he said.

## U.S. set to benefit more than Japan, less than EU from GATT

GENEVA (AFP) — The removal of obstacles to trade under a world-wide deal reached at the beginning of this year will benefit the European Union most, but the United States should draw 4.5 times more benefit than Japan, GATT experts have said.

The so-called Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation measures would give an astonishing impulse to wealth-creation, but in 10 years' time, figures from the GATT showed Thursday.

The effect of measures to remove barriers to trade in goods alone would increase world income by \$510 billion a year once their full impact is felt from 2005.

Experts behind the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said that the so-called Uruguay Round of measures would, in fact, have a far greater effect since undertakings had been given by the 125 participating countries to reduce impediments to the trade in services.

The rules regulating trade had also been tightened up and countries which breached them with unilateral action to protect trade would be subject to more severe penalties than had been the case before.

The Uruguay Round agreement must be ratified by each participant and there is strong opposition to ratification within the U.S. Congress. About 30 countries have ratified so far.

The GATT estimated that once the measures had come fully into force, the economy of the European Union would benefit to the extent of \$164 billion per year, the U.S. economy by \$122 billion, Japan \$27 billion and developing or transitional economies by \$116 billion.

The report noted that developed countries had agreed to reduce their customs tariffs on industrial goods from an average of 8.3 per cent to 6.3 per cent.

The proportion of industrial goods entering developed countries free of duty from whatever source would rise to 44 per cent of all such products from 20 per cent before the agreement was signed.

In the agricultural sector alone, governmental subsidies for export would be reduced by 36 per cent from \$22.5 billion to \$14.5 billion.

This would be particularly marked in the European Union, which would cut such subsidies by \$4 billion, representing half of the total reduction, mainly in the sectors of beef, wheat, butter and dairy products.

EU export subsidies would fall from \$13.274 billion to \$8.496 billion.

State support for national agriculture would be cut by 18 per cent from \$197 billion to \$162 billion, owing mainly to cuts of 17 per cent within the EU from \$92.39 billion now to \$76.9 billion.

Japan would reduce aid to its farmers by 20 per cent from \$35.5 billion to \$28.4 billion.

## Ministers let APEC leaders decide on free trade

JAKARTA (R) — Asia-Pacific ministers decided Saturday to leave their leaders to decide a timetable for freeing trade in the region, with Malaysia saying it was not alone in rejecting a proposal for a timeframe.

This vision will be decided by the summit Tuesday in nearby Bogor, Indonesian Trade and Industry Minister Hartanto told reporters at the end of the annual ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Proposals before the forum recommend trade and investment liberalisation in the region by 2020, with rich member nations such as Japan and the United States taking the lead by 2010.

Mr. Hartanto's Malaysian counterpart, Rafidah Aziz, told reporters several APEC members had expressed reservations over setting a timeframe for free trade.

"Everybody thought everybody else except for Malaysia was in favour of the timetable. But this is not the case, there are several who have reservations," said the blunt-speaking Rafidah.

"You should have been at the meeting, then you will know," she said in reply to which countries shared Malaysia's views.

Ms. Rafidah said Malaysia's stand on the timetable should not be mistaken as an objection to trade liberalisation.

"Malaysia fully supports trade liberalisation. In our (1995) budget, we disbanded tariffs on 2,600 products. This is real market liberalisation," she added.

Malaysia, which is promoting an East Asian economic grouping that could rival APEC, had objected strongly to a timetable being set at the two-day ministerial meeting.

"We don't believe there should be a timetable for the setting up of a free trade area in the region because of the diverse economies," she said.

Ms. Rafidah declined to say if Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad would refuse to sign a summit declaration if the summit at Bogor, 60 kilometres from Jakarta, decides to endorse a timetable.

"Nothing in APEC is binding and I doubt if any will be pushing for the signing of anything," she said. "Nothing in APEC can be enforced unless the APEC charter is amended."

The two-day APEC ministerial meeting also agreed on non-binding investment principles to ensure the free flow of capital in the region.

## UAE banks focus on retail business

DUBAI (R) — Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are starting to focus on retail banking for increasingly sophisticated clients after years of virtual dependence on trade finance, bankers said.

"Traditionally in this region banks have been involved in trade finance-related business, and to a lesser extent in real estate and industry," Mashreq Bank chief executive Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair told Reuters.

"But there has been a growing awareness that the retail sector is a good one to be in," he added of the banking service designed to meet daily needs of individuals and businesses.

Retail banking is well established in most Western economies where banks have begun to focus on new business like derivatives while up to 60 per cent of potential clients are believed still outside the banking system in Gulf states like the UAE, bankers said.

Although trade finance still accounts for the lion's share of business in the UAE, bankers said competition between banks for retail clients was steadily growing, and resulting in a wider and more sophisticated product range.

"This is particularly true in an environment of rising interest rates, when banks' margins are being squeezed," Standard Chartered Bank regional chief executive, Andrew Prebble said.

"But trade finance is going to remain banks' main business here, as trade is the lifeblood of the UAE," he said.

Last year the non-oil sector contributed 60 per cent to gross domestic product (GDP), official figures show.

In Dubai — the second largest of the seven emirates, of the UAE and its busy trading hub — the non-oil sector's contribution was higher, at 72 per cent.

Mr. Prebble said between 60 and 70 per cent of his bank's profits were made in corporate banking. "Of that, about 80 per cent is in relation to trade finance."

There are 19 domestic and 27 foreign banks operating in the UAE. They have until recently benefited from falling interest rates, with most banks reporting significant increases in profits in the past few years.

Mashreq Bank is the largest privately-owned local bank, with a paid-up capital of 542.3 million dirhams (\$148 million) and bankers say it is leading the trend towards retail banking.

"There was a slow response to this emerging consumer market," Mr. Ghurair said. "In the eighties when banks were shying away from lending small amounts of money, we took a calculated risk and went into it. We have not regretted it."

Bankers say fiercer competition will enhance retail banking products in the next year.

"I don't think there is an area of banking which will not see the introduction of new products in this market in the next 12 months," Mr. Prebble said. "As the market becomes more developed, customers will demand more sophisticated banking products."

These include telephone banking facilities, portfolio management and investment advice, widespread automated teller machines (ATM), women-only banking halls, expatriate schemes and computer-linked banking.

A centrally-linked network is also in the pipeline, allowing card holders to withdraw cash from another subscriber's ATM.

"But it will probably be two years before it goes live," Mr. Ghurair said.

Another expected development is the establishment of a stock exchange, which would bring custody business to banks. But it is unlikely to come on line for at least two years.

Meanwhile the profits of Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and other banks in the UAE could rise by a fifth or more in 1994, ADCB's chief executive has said.

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## Pierce advances in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Second-seeded Mary Pierce jumped to big leads in the each set Friday and beat newcomer Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Pierce, fighting a head cold, surrendered just three points in the first three games of the first set and just four in the first three games of the second set.

"I feel I'm playing well considering how I feel," Pierce said. "It's always tough when you're not feeling well because it's hard to stay focused, and you get tired more easily."

Gabriela Sabatini struggled in the first set before settling down and beating Chanda Rubin 6-3, 6-0 to reach the semifinals.

With the way I'm playing, I'm feeling good," Sabatini said. "I feel everything is there. If I keep doing the same things, I can win the tournament."

Sabatini turned a close match into a rout in the second set against Rubin.

After struggling with her serve in the first set, Sabatini held Rubin to just six service points in the second set and broke her service three times. In her first three matches, Sabatini has lost one game in the second set.

"Once I win the first set, I feel more comfortable with my game. I get more confident, and I feel good about it," Sabatini said.

Also advancing to the semifinals were No. 5 Natalia

Zvereva, who beat Brenda Schultz 6-1, 7-6, and Anke Huber, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Kimberly Po.

Tu, ranked 604th in the world, broke Pierce's serve to draw within 5-4 in the second set, but Pierce broke back with a powerful backhand at match point. Pierce has lost just 11 games in her first three matches.

The 16-year-old Tu, of Northridge, Calif., was a wild-card entrant and had played just 10 professional matches before facing the No. 5 women's player. It was the second time Tu reached the quarterfinals of a tournament.

"It was just another match — no big deal," Tu said. "If you start thinking you can't play with those players, it can get a little overwhelming. I know I can play with them."

Pierce, the top remaining seed in the tournament, went up 3-0 in the first set before Tu drew within 3-2. Pierce capitalized when Tu double-faulted on her next two service games.

Pierce next will play Zvereva, who had few problems with Schultz's powerful serve in the first set and won five of the first six points in a second-set tiebreaker.

Zvereva, who has not lost a set in the tournament, broke Schultz twice in the first set. The two stayed on serve in the second until Schultz hit into the net two give Zvereva a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

Schultz, the most powerful server on the women's tour, had 12 aces but double-

faulted at match point. Zvereva won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Huber used her relentless groundstrokes and took advantage of Po's sloppiness. Huber grabbed a 4-1 lead with a forehand smash in the second set. Three games later, she broke Po's serve for the victory.

"She made a lot of easy mistakes," Huber said. "I thought after the first set, I could win each game. I was confident I would win the match."

Huber has had perhaps the toughest route into the semifinals. She had to overcome the return of Jennifer Capriati in the first round, was stretched to three sets by local star Lisa Raymond in a match that ended near midnight and returned to beat Po Friday afternoon.

Clavet ousted Berasategui In Buenos Aires, Francisco Clavet ended six weeks of frustration against fellow Spaniard Alberto Berasategui with a 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-2 victory over the No. 1 seed in Friday's quarterfinals of the Topper South American Open.

Also reaching the semifinals were No. 3 seed Alex Corretja of Spain, No. 5 Karel Novacek of the Czech Republic and unseeded Javier Frana of Argentina.

Berasategui had defeated Clavet in the finals of the ATP tour events in Montevideo and Santiago the previous two weeks, along with a semifinal win Athens in early October.



Mary Pierce

"It feels good to finally beat him," Clavet said. "He even beat me in backgammon last week. I was beginning to wonder if I could ever win against him."

Clavet, No. 44 in the rankings and seeded No. 8 in this tournament, has 14 of his last 17 matches, with all three losses coming to Berasategui. His win snapped Be-

rasategui's 22-match winning streak on clay in ATP tour play.

"You can't expect to keep winning forever," Berasategui said. "I hadn't lost in two months, so I was due to lose sometime."

Berasategui will be the No. 7 seed in the ATP tour world championship, starting next

Tuesday in Frankfurt, Germany. He qualified Wednesday when Michael Stich lost in the first round at Antwerp.

Corretja advanced with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Luiz Mattar of Brazil. Novacek defeated countryman Slava Dosedel 6-1, 6-3 and Frana eliminated Juan Viloca of Spain 6-4, 6-4.

## Talks to end U.S. baseball strike resume

RYE BROOK, New York (AP) — Owners reshuffled their bargaining team Thursday as U.S. Major League Baseball talks resumed, appointing Boston Red Sox Chief Executive Officer John Harrington their lead negotiator.

The move, announced by acting commissioner Bud Selig, came during the first substantive negotiating session between the parties since Sept. 9, five days before owners cancelled the World Series for the first time since 1904. Until now, Richard Ravitch had been management's head bargainer.

Management downplayed the shift in public comments, but one owner and two management officials, speaking on the condition they not be identified, said Harrington would assume the lead role of the owners' negotiating committee.

"I think John Harrington has the confidence of Bud Selig and the entire ownership," Ravitch said, "and I think that's why he was asked to be chairman of the committee."

Harrington, who called Ravitch "our chief negotiator," attended the post-meeting news conference with union head Donald Fehr and mediator W.J. Uster.

Players struck Aug. 12, two-thirds of the way through the season, to protest owners' intentions to impose a limit on players salaries. The play-

ers believe the salary cap merely masks the owners' inability to share revenues between healthier large market clubs and small market teams.

The talks, which took place on the 91st day of the strike, were adjourned after five hours.

"There was a lot of candor today," said Selig, who attended the first 2 1/2 hours of meetings. "I thought there was much more civility, sensitivity than there had been in the past."

Fehr, while saying the atmosphere was still "hypercharged," was much less hostile toward owners in his public comments than he was during the summer.

"There was a lot of discussion," he said. "Whether that discussion leads anywhere remains to be seen."

It was fifth formal meeting between the sides since players struck Aug. 12 and it was the first significant one under Uster, the mediator picked by the Clinton administration Oct. 14, while he met with the sides five days later; that session merely set ground rules.

"I would characterize the meeting as very constructive, open and candid dialogue," Uster said. "There was a lot of consensus in some areas."

Asked what those areas were, Fehr said: "To the extent there was agreement, it was to say 'X' might have been done in a better way."

## Dallas Cowboys, SF 49ers battle today

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers each have a disruptive defense led by a pro bowl player. Ironically, Ken Norton Jr. and Charles Haley both starred for both teams.

Norton was a pro bowl linebacker for the Cowboys before joining the 49ers as a free agent prior to this season. Defensive end Charles

Haley was traded by the 49ers to Dallas in 1992.

On Sunday, the two teams meet in a replay of the past two NFC Championship games. Dallas (8-1) won both en route to consecutive Super Bowl titles.

Haley, who will be making his fourth appearance against his former team, is hoping to increase his record to 4-0 against San Francisco (7-2).

The Cowboys enter Sunday's game with the league's top-ranked defense. San Francisco has the top-scoring offense and Steve Young leads the league in passing efficiency.

The 49ers have won three straight regular-season games between the clubs at San Francisco. But the last was in 1985 when Joe Montana passed for two touchdowns in a 31-16 victory.

Young leads the NFL with a 101.8 passing rating on 189 completions in 259 attempts for 2,138 yards and an NFC-best 16 touchdowns.

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## FIFA clear Grobbelaar to play cup tie

ZURICH (AFP) — World football's ruling body, FIFA, said Friday it will not get involved in the allegations of corruption levelled at former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Grobbelaar, currently in Harare for Zimbabwe's African Nations Cup qualifier against Zaire Sunday, is alleged by Britain's Sun newspaper to have taken bribes to lose matches in the English Premiership.

Through a statement issued in London by his solicitor Thursday he emphatically denied the charges and said he was suing the newspaper.

FIFA said Friday it supported the English Football Association's decision to take no action before talking to Grobbelaar, thereby clearing him to play Sunday.

"The Football Association in London has informed FIFA that the player Bruce Grobbelaar, who has been alleged to have received bribes, will not be suspended by the FA pending a hearing with the Football Association," FIFA said in a statement issued here.

"FIFA has agreed with the FA that FIFA will not intervene in the case, pending further evidence. Thus Bruce Grobbelaar remains entitled to play for Zimbabwe in this Sunday's qualifying match."

Grobbelaar, wearing his trademark broad-brimmed black hat with a Zebra-skin band, had stepped off an Air Zimbabwe flight from London shortly after dawn Friday after lying low in Britain for two days.

## Houston Rockets raise record to 5-0

BOSTON (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon scored 26 points as the National Basketball Association champion Houston Rockets rolled to a 102-82 rout of the Boston Celtics Friday, raising their record to a perfect 5-0.

"We have a goal which is to have the homecourt advantage in the playoffs," said Olajuwon, who scored 13 of his points in the first quarter. "Every game will help to gain ground, and that's our goal for the season."

The Celtics have opened the season with three straight losses for the first time since 1977.

The Rockets continued their early-game success by jumping to a 33-18 lead after one period. Houston has led by at least nine points after one quarter in each of its first five games.

Vernon Maxwell scored 21 points, including five three-pointers, and Robert Horry added 15 for Houston.

Dino Rajda led Boston with 31 points. Xavier McDaniel, who had 10 points, was the only other Celtic in double figures.

At Minnesota, Scottie Pippen scored 22 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Chicago Bulls maintained their perfect record against the Timberwolves with a 112-100 victory.

Minnesota, which has never beaten Chicago in 11 tries, has lost all five games under new coach Bill Blair this season.

The Bulls used a 19-5 run in the third quarter to take a commanding 74-56 lead after 4:41 left in the third quarter. The closest Minnesota came the rest of the way was a nine-point deficit early in the fourth quarter.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 26 points and Detlef Schrempf had 22, including five free throws in the last 85 seconds, as the SuperSonics held on to beat the injury-depleted Phoenix Suns 129-123.

Phoenix was playing without injured stars Charles Barkley and Kevin Johnson. Danny Manning led the Suns with 27 points and 10 rebounds and Dan Majerle had 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists.

The Sonics hit 10 of 21 three-point shots, including three of four by Sam Perkins, who scored 22 points.

At Utah, Latrell Sprewell scored 22 of his 30 points in the second half and Ricky Pierce scored eight points in the final 36 seconds as the Golden State Warriors beat the Utah Jazz 112-104 to remain unbeaten at 4-0.

Tim Hardaway scored 30 points and Pierce finished with 21 for the Warriors, who are without injured star Chris

Mullen and holdout Chris Webber, last season's rookie of the year.

Karl Malone paced the Jazz with 25 points.

The Jazz pulled within four at 108-104 in the final minute, but Pierce sealed the victory for Golden State by hitting four free throws.

In Milwaukee, Alonzo Mourning had 24 points and 13 rebounds and Dell Curry scored 28 as the Charlotte Hornets earned their first win of the season, a 123-115 triumph over the Bucks.

Milwaukee closed within 113-110 with 1:25 left on a 7-0 run, but could get no closer.

Larry Johnson had 12 points and 16 rebounds and Hersey Hawkins chipped in 16 points for the 1-3 Hornets.

Todd Day led Milwaukee with 21 points, Marty Conlon added 20 and Johnny Newman had 19.

In Philadelphia, Jamal Mashburn and Jim Jackson each scored 22 points and rookie Jason Kidd sparked a 13-0 first-quarter run as the Dallas Mavericks beat the 76ers 105-96 in their first road game of the season.

Dallas (2-1) won just seven road games all of last season.

The Mavericks, who led all the way, held a 6-5 edge when Kidd sparked the game-breaking run with five of his 19 points. Kidd also had nine rebounds and dished out five assists.

Clarence Weatherspoon led Philadelphia, loser of four of its first five games, with 29 points.

At Washington, Calbert Cheaney scored 22 points on 10-of-14 shooting and Don Maclean had 14 of his 18 points in the second half as the Bullets beat New Jersey 104-91.

The 3-1 Bullets are off to their best start in five years. Benoit Benjamin scored 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Derrick Coleman had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Nets, who fell to 0-4 on the road this season and 1-4 overall.

The Nets jumped out to an early 11-5 lead, but trailed, 32-29 after the first quarter. Chaney scored 15 points in the first half, hitting seven of eight field goal attempts to help the Bullets build a 59-48 halftime lead.

At Los Angeles, Robert Pack scored eight of his 22 points in overtime as the Denver Nuggets spoiled the Lakers' home opener with a 124-117 victory.

The Lakers went on a 14-2 spree in the first 6:04 of the fourth quarter, outscoring Denver 33-15 in the final period of regulation to force overtime at 105-105.

The Laker's Sedale Threatt hit a three-pointer with 19.9 seconds left in regulation to knot the game.

But the Nuggets (3-1), who were led by Bryant Stith's 23 points, scored the first six points of the overtime.

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## Mubarak calls for Arab reconciliation

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak called Saturday for the Arab World to patch up differences stemming from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Mubarak's appeal came just two days after the Iraqi government voted to recognise Kuwait and dropped its claim to the emirate.

"The logic of resorting to force and interference in the internal affairs of members of the Arab family undermines the concept of Arab security and violates the principle of mutual respect," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We should work for a pan-Arab reconciliation that would clear the air in the Arab World through deeds and actions," Mr. Mubarak made the comments in an address to the opening of the fall session of the 458-seat parliament.

Egypt was a major participant in the U.S.-led international alliance that liberated Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

The conflict split the Arab World between those who were seen as backing Iraq and those who supported Kuwait, and fences have not yet been mended.

This summer there were reports that Mr. Mubarak was working with leaders of the United Arab Emirates to try to end Iraq's isolation. He later denied them.

Iraq has been badly hurt by U.N. Security Council sanctions that ban oil sales and other trade until Iraq fulfils a series of conditions, including recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty.

In his hour and 45-minute speech to the Peoples Assembly, Mr. Mubarak also renewed Egypt's commitment to help advance the Middle East peace process.

But he warned that peace will remain incomplete until Israel comes to terms with Syria and Lebanon.

Egypt, the first country to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979, was a key mediator in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Jordan last month signed a peace treaty.

But talks with Syria have been hung up over Syria's demand for the return of the Golan Heights. This has held

up progress with Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria.

Mr. Mubarak also repeated Egypt's demand that the Middle East be a nuclear-free zone. Israel is the only country in the region believed to have nuclear weapons, though it has never acknowledged so publicly.

On domestic issues, Mr. Mubarak praised Egyptian security forces for cracking down on Muslim extremists who have been trying to overthrow his secular government and replace it with a fundamentalist regime.

"The Egyptian police have dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist groups and managed to disclose their hideouts and monitor their contacts inside and outside," Mr. Mubarak said. "They deserve our congratulations and respect."

Mr. Mubarak, who has been in power since the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat, was elected to a third, six-year term last year.

### 3 killed in clashes

Three people were killed and two wounded during renewed clashes between Muslim extremists and security forces in southern Egypt, police said.

A soldier was killed Friday in Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, during a raid by security forces on a radical hideout, said a police official.

The official said the extremists escaped. It was unclear why the victims were soldiers since police normally carry out such raids. But both men were conscripts, who are sometimes transferred to police units.

Meanwhile, suspected Muslim extremists shot and killed a suspected police informer Friday, and one bystander was killed and another wounded during a subsequent battle with police as the extremists tried to escape.

The incident happened in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. The town is a stronghold of the radicals.

The supposed informer was identified as Talaat Mahmoud Abdul Rahim. The dead bystander was identified only as a Christian.

## Syria urges Israel to return Arab land

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria urged Israel Saturday to relinquish occupied Arab territories to curb mounting attacks by Palestinian extremists.

"The Israelis should draw lessons from the recurring bombings in the occupied lands and realise that the accords they have concluded, under duress, with this Arab party or that will not survive for long because of the wide gap between the contents of these agreements and Arab aspirations," the government-run Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial.

It was commenting on a suicide bombing in Gaza Friday in which three Israeli soldiers were killed and 11 people, including a Palestinian family, were wounded. The bombing was claimed by the Islamic Jihad group.

A Syrian-based Palestinian opposition group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also said that the "bloody cycle of violence" will not stop "so long as the Israeli occupation continues."

The front, which opposed Yasser Arafat's year-old self-rule accord with Israel, warned in a statement that the violence cannot be stopped "by military means or Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's orders to Arafat to wage war" against the extremists in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Tishrin reiterated Syria's position on its negotiations with Israel, which have been stalled since February, even though the Palestinians and Jordan have signed agreements with Israel in the last year.

Egypt also demands a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and from southern Lebanon.

The Israelis have offered a phased and partial withdrawal from the Golan over several years, but hinted they could offer more if Syria denies the type of peace treaty it is willing to conclude.

Lebanon, which is controlled by Syria, cannot make peace with Israel before

South Lebanon will be no more than a waste of time and a rejected manoeuvre," Tishrin said.

"Peace is deeds, not words. Israeli officials have not yet translated their alleged peace intentions into acts and their statements relating to the Syrian track are still shrouded in ambiguity," the daily declared.

Another government newspaper, the English-language Syria Times, said: "Acts of resistance to Israeli occupation continue because the Palestinians... feel and see that nothing has changed by the signing of an accord between Israel and the (Palestine Liberation Organisation) PLO leadership," referring to the Sept. 13, 1993, self-rule accord.

"This confirms once again that peace and occupation do not go together. One must die for the other to live and because we want peace to live, survive and last, the occupation must die," it said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday progress in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations is both possible and crucial to Middle East peace.

Without a breakthrough between Israel and Syria, "progress on the other peace tracks remains insufficient and does not fulfil the parties' commitment to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace," Mr. Mubarak told parliament here.

Mr. Mubarak said he was "convinced of the possibility of progress" on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process launched at the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and the Lebanese government were "sincere and determined" in their search for peace with Israel.

More should also be done on the Palestinian track to consolidate and extend Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Mubarak added.

Future stability in the Middle East depended on cooperation in development pro-

## Spanish royal couple in Jordan Valley

HER MAJESTY Queen Noor on Saturday accompanied King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain on a visit to the Jordan Valley. The Spanish royal couple arrived in Amman on Friday on a state visit to Jordan (see page one) (Photo by Yousef Allan)



## Jordan will have to change laws to reflect peace — Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — In the course of implementing the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, Jordan will amend some of its laws or enact new laws to be compatible with the treaty's provisions, Information Minister Jawad Al Anani has said.

In an interview broadcast by Jordan Television Friday night, Dr. Anani also said that in conformity to the implementation of the treaty Jordan and Israel have to start negotiations over the various provisions, especially on matters related to bilateral cooperation.

But, he said, priority will be given to measures pertaining to restoration of Jordan's sovereignty over its territory.

The joint committee on borders will soon meet to take the essential steps leading to the removal of barbed wires and cleaning the border areas from landmines because these measures are closely connected with Israeli troop withdrawals to the new border lines within three months, Dr. Anani said.

Demarcation of the border in its final status should be completed in nine months time, he added.

Dr. Anani said that Israel,

working upon directives from the joint committee on water, will have to start pumping water to Jordan from the Yarmouk River.

Referring to travel between the two sides, Dr. Anani said that to-date Jordanians who visited Israel made the trip through the West Bank territory and through special permits. But there is need now for a special set of arrangements to allow them to make the trip to Israel directly from Jordan, he said.

Joint committees will soon be making arrangements for such procedures to take effect in not more than one and a half months from now, he said.

Since 1967 Jordan has kept the bridges open with the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, offering the people on both sides the opportunity to travel and visit relatives, he noted.

As for now, he said, it will be more urgent for the two sides to make available further facilities for travel through new agreements that would allow free trade and travel.

Referring to the next year's economic conference in Amman, Dr. Anani said that the coming conference will build on the findings and the re-

commendations of the Casablanca conference.

He expressed belief that the Amman meeting will direct attention towards specific rather than general ideas on projects with the aim of securing Arab and foreign investors to embark on feasible projects.

Jordan has to pave the ground for investment projects through appropriate laws and regulations and practical measures which should endure because changes in legislation tend to adversely affect the climate of investments, he said.

The Jordan Valley, he said, will be developed through joint Israeli-Jordanian projects.

The major project is the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal because it entails investments in tourism industry, water and the environment.

He said that the Jordan Rift Valley is so vast that it can accommodate various projects and become an area with great agricultural potential which would attract people to settle down there.

The minister said development of the Jordan Rift Valley would take at least 10 years to complete.

## Opposition accuses government of adopting 'anti-democratic' means

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties Saturday lashed out anew at the government for what they described as its anti-democratic measures that are curbing the freedom of expression and scattering hopes for the spread of democracy in the country.

Citing alleged detention of political party members and provocative actions against members of Parliament and political activists who oppose the peace treaty with Israel, 11 opposition groups said the government is not allowing the opposition any room to express itself.

In a statement issued Saturday, the 11 parties, which included the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and leftist and pan-Arabist groups, reiterated their right to express their views through legal and democratic means.

Meanwhile, over 500 Islamist students staged a sit-in at the University of Jordan to protest the peace treaty, and the alleged government harassment of the opposition.

The Associated Press quoted a spokesman for the Islamist-dominated students council as saying the government has "crossed the red line" by preventing the opposition from expressing its views in legal ways.

The focus by the opposition parties and the students on the lack of freedom of expression was seen by observers as an indication of the "unsatisfactory" policy the government has adopted in its quest for having the treaty finalised without "trouble."

The opposition parties have accepted that the peace treaty with Israel is a political reality and they will not resort to violence to abort it, observers say. Accordingly, they said, the opposition's anger is more at the "restrict-

tive atmosphere" that the government has spread rather than on the signing of the treaty.

In a column published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Thursday, IAF Deputy Bassam Omoush reiterated assertions that the opposition will not jeopardise the stability of the country in its battle against peace with Israel.

"We know that violence will mean destruction for all," he said, adding that now that the treaty has been finalised, "we have to bless any positive developments" and work for the benefit of the country and the people.

But Dr. Omoush criticised what he called the "inappropriate performance" of the government in the days since the signing of the treaty, urging a "search for a new government" that can face the new era and its challenges.

As did the opposition parties, Dr. Omoush criticised the "bias" in the government media in favour of the official point of view.

Instead of focusing on the usual call for fighting peace with Israel, the opposition's statement Saturday warned against the implications of the alleged continued governmental encroachment on democratic rights.

The parties urged the people to protect the democratic march and stand up against the alleged government violation of freedom, saying that "democracy cannot be established unless freedoms are protected."

Independent observers agreed that the government has been following unnecessary restrictive procedures since the signing of the peace treaty.

Stressing that there is enough support for the peace treaty, observers questioned

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordanian girl dies before marrow transplant in Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The body of Heba Shabaan, a 12-year-old Jordanian girl who died in an Israeli hospital before she could undergo bone-marrow transplant, was laid to rest near her family home in Zarqa Saturday.

Heba died late of massive internal bleeding in the chest and lungs late Friday, a few days before she was to receive a bone-marrow transplant from her 10-month-old brother Mohammad, who was the only family member whose bone marrow matched hers, according to doctors at the Hadassah hospital in occupied Jerusalem.

Friends and relatives attended the funeral. Her father, Rushdie Shabaan, wept throughout the funeral and repeatedly threw himself on the coffin, the Associated Press reported from the scene.

"Peace came too late for Heba," the agency reported, referring to the family's appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Oct. 27, one day after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty. Mr. Rabin had responded immediately, ordering his government to admit Heba to an

Mohammad, had arrived at the Hadassah hospital on Monday after tests proved the compatibility of bone marrow of the siblings.

The transplant, which is not available in Jordan, was the only way to save the girl, who suffered from a severe disorder which retards the human body's ability to produce blood cells, leaving the patient vulnerable to infection or sudden bleeding.

The transplant had been scheduled for this week after preliminary treatment was completed, reports from Israel said.

Professor Shimon Slavin, head of the bone-marrow transplant centre at the hospital, said Heba was being prepared for the transplant when the girl "all of a sudden had major bleeding in both lungs and chest."

"The medical teams were there but there was no chance of resuscitating her because it was impossible to control the internal bleeding," he was quoted as saying by Reuters.

He added that doctors had discovered that the girl had "fancony's anaemia," a genetic disease which affects all body cells, and not aplastic anaemia as originally diagnosed. Aplastic anaemia is limited to bone marrow.

Mr. Shabaan, as he started his journey back home, told

## Queen Mum is not dead: BBC apologises

LONDON (AFP) — The BBC apologised to Buckingham Palace after it reported wrongly, for a few seconds, that Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, had died.

Late morning, a one-line news flash appeared on the BBC's Ceefax text news service — written summaries of news events presented on screen — claiming that the 94-year-old mother of the reigning queen Elizabeth II had passed away. Buckingham Palace and Clarence House, the "Queen Mum's" London home, were flooded with viewers' calls and had to issue a string of denials. An embarrassed BBC spokesman said Friday that an internal inquiry was already underway into how the pre-written text announcing the death of one of the most popular members of the royal family had been broadcast.

"One line from a rehearsal script was on screen for literally a few seconds," he said.

The queen mother, who has become increasingly frail in the last few years, recently sprained her foot and will miss Armistice Day ceremonies Sunday held to mark the end of World War I.

However her spokesman said Friday she was now "very much better" and quite well.

Last year, Australian television and radio stations reported her death after an employee of the Sky Television Broadcasting Group in London saw a prepared announcement of her death, and, thinking it was the real thing, phoned his mother in Australia with the news.

Da Vinci manuscript sold for \$30.8m

NEW YORK (AFP) — Bill Gates, founder and president of the Microsoft computer corporation, was the mystery buyer who paid \$30.8 million for an illustrated manuscript by Leonardo Da Vinci, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported Saturday.

A source at the firm that handles Mr. Gates' public relations, Wagener-Edstrom Company, confirmed that Mr. Gates had been the buyer of the 72-page manuscript last owned by the late industrialist Armand Hammer. The source, who spoke anonymously, said only, "Leonardo represents the fusion of art and science... I think that's why he is of such interest to Bill Gates." He said the manuscript would be exhibited around the world.

The document by the Renaissance artist and inventor was auctioned off Friday in New York by Christie's America, which refused to identify the new owner whose bid had come by telephone. Mr. Gates' bid was the highest price ever paid at auction for a manuscript or book.

The manuscript dates from 1508 to 1510 and was handwritten by Da Vinci in his "mirror" writing.

Japan's great Buddha defaced in graffiti attack

TOKYO (R) — Vandals painted red ribs and nipples on the great Buddha of Kamakura, a popular tourist site and one of Japan's designated national treasures, police said Saturday. The unprecedented graffiti attack on the 11.4 metre-high (34 ft) statue was discovered early Friday morning by a priest from the Kotokuin Temple at Kamakura, 30 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, police said.

The great Buddha, a seated image of the Buddha Amitayus built in 1252, also had its fingernails painted red.

Oregon measure on suicide passes

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon has become the only place in the nation that lets doctors hasten death for the terminally ill. Measure 16 on Tuesday's ballot passed 52 per cent to 48 per cent Thursday. Not all the absentee ballots were counted, but both sides said they do not expect the margin to change when the tally is completed. Measure 16 will allow a patient with six months to live